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'ARAFAT ADDRESSES MASS RALLY IN DAMASCUS

NC092050Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 1630 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a mass rally in Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus on 8 January to mark 15th anniversary of Palestinian revolution--read by announcer]

[Text] Brothers: The Palestinian revolution has lost our martyr Boumediene. He was the echo of Bou Arous in Galilee, Haifa and the Negev. We have lost this Arab giant, who was the echo of heroic Algeria. We decided to postpone the revolution's anniversary celebrations in honor of this heroic Arab knight.

On this occasion, memories of struggler martyr Boumediene come back to me. I remember his memorable words on the day the upsurge started. He said: "Rise and fire the first bullet. Algeria will be with you." He translated this into deeds when we fired the first bullet. He sent to us the first plane loaded with ammunition and weapons. It was sent to us through Al-Asad's Syria--revolutionary Syria.

Brothers, you are now celebrating the 15th anniversary [of the revolution]. We recall these memories. We are a Palestinian revolution with Arab roots and world dimensions.

Brothers, the road is long and difficult. Last year, As-Sadat went to Jerusalem on a visit of treason and shame. Carter and Begin believed that this visit and the plot which they concocted for the area would end the revolution. As-Sadat's initiative has been swept by shame, disgrace and retreats, to be crushed by the steadfastness and resistance which represent the strength, pride and dignity of our Arab nation.

What has become of Brezezinski's statement: Goodbye to the PLO? I tell him now, as I told him the last time: "Goodbye to your interests in all the area." Events have proved that the revolution is bigger than all computers. They tried to [word indistinct] the area, as As-Sadat returned to Jerusalem. Only invaders like Saladin lived in Jerusalem. 'Umar ibn al-Khattab also entered it. As-Sadat gave them the impression that the area was under his control and that he was the only spokesman of the nation. They were not aware that Egypt's ruler As-Sadat does not even represent the Egyptian people. It is the National Grouping Party and all parties which say no to Camp David and its results which represent the Egyptian people. I say this because I know that the will of the people is stronger than all plots and plotters.

Brothers, when Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO, the Israeli enemy deployed one-third of its army to annihilate the PLO in southern Lebanon. We and our brothers in the Lebanese national movement resisted for 8 days. We faced the Zionist army which was equipped with sophisticated U.S. weapons. We did not stop the fighting, nor did we agree to the cease-fire requested by the UN secretary general, Dr Waldheim. Therefore, I say that this was the first time in the Arab-Israeli conflict that the Zionist enemy had asked the fighting to be halted in southern Lebanon.

Brothers, what has become of Brezezinski's statement? The steadfastness was a sweeping and roaring current in the area. It is the steadfastness which said no to reason, no to submission and no to capitulation. [Words indistinct] challenge and fighting until victory.

The plot is very big. A few days ago, the enemy launched attacks and air raids against us. Our positions were bombed again yesterday. What does this mean? The agents in Lebanon, who are prompted by U.S. and Zionist plans, want to transfer the battle to southern Lebanon in an attempt to establish a ridiculous cantonment along the border strip in the south. Brothers, there are some who believe that they can expel the Palestinian revolution from Lebanon and also expel the Palestinian-Lebanese [words indistinct] from Lebanon. They also believe that they can destroy the steadfastness and resistance in Lebanon, believing that Lebanon is the weak link. Let them fully understand that the will of the Lebanese fighter, with that of his Palestinian brother, has proved that there can be no point of weakness in this steel revolutionary will, which represents the will of the Arab nation.

Brothers, the plotters planned to exploit our people in the occupied homeland. However, the plotters and their plans were confronted by the revolutionary pride, which I call the time bomb that exploded in the face of As-Sadat, Begin and Carter. I say no to treason and no to submission.

The plotters believed that the area is at their beckon and call. The warning came from Iran and the heroic Iranian people, who raised the slogan of "a revolution, revolution until victory." This is the slogan raised by the Palestinian revolution. This time, it came as a reply to Brzezinski's statement to tell him: "Goodby to the U.S. interests in the area."

Brothers, the plot is now directed against Syria and the Palestinian revolution in an attempt to cause a crack between the Palestinian revolution and Syria. However, these plots will founder on the rock of this revolutionary pride and the revolutionary strategic relations between Syria and the Palestinian revolution, which came out at the same time to say no to Camp David and to say fighting until Tel Aviv and until victory. At the Baghdad summit, where the Egyptian people were with us, the Arab nation said no to Camp David.

Brothers, a total of 103 states stood with us to support the PLO and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. They supported their right to return to their homeland and determine their future. I say that the world does not side with ghosts. It sides with a giant revolution which is not be affected by the Camp David plots or by the plotters against it.

Brothers, when I say this is the year of coal and fire, I mean that the road is long and hard. I also say that this is the year of light and hope because light and hope will emerge from the rifles of our fighters marching to Palestine and to Jerusalem. It is a revolution until victory.

ABU IYAD: PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD END SUBVERSION AGAINST ISRAEL

LD091521Y Paris LE MONDE in French 7-8 Jan 79 p 20 LD

[Excerpt from book by Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad: Palestinian Without a Country]

[Text] The day of reckoning has arrived. Some 30 years have passed since the exodus of the Palestinian people and 20 years since the founding of Fatah. I must admit, with profound bitterness, that our situation today is a lot worse than the one which incited us to set up our movement in 1958. I am very much afraid that we may have to start everything all over again.

To be sure, I do not deny the successes we have scored. I am proud of my people and the sacrifices they have made in order to win victories on the battlefield against an enemy whose overwhelming strength no longer needs to be demonstrated. I am also proud of the place the PLO occupies on the international scene. It is not recognized by most states as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and has wrested an observer's seat at the United Nations.

Having said this, after 20 years of bitter struggle, my people's fate remains poignant. They still have no homeland and no identity. In actual fact, we have regressed. Israel now occupies not just half of Palestinian territory but the whole of it. The United States, the guarantor for the Zionist venture, has extended and consolidated its influence in the Arab world. Egypt, the biggest and the most influential Arab country, is sinking its boats at Camp David. Arab oil, which could have been used as a formidable political weapon, is no more than a commercial commodity. The Arab world, which has ceaselessly offered unilateral concessions to Israel in recent years, is in danger of slipping along the path to dangerous compromises. At present it is neither in a position to conclude a just and lasting peace nor capable of resorting to force, without which such a peace is not possible.

However, although it is true that we have avoided many mistakes committed by our predecessors, our own errors, although less serious, have caused us sometimes irreparable damage. We have concluded alliances with Arab regimes which we considered to be of strategic nature, only to discover later to our cost that they were only highly temporary. This caused us deep disappointments and unexpected setbacks. We thought, for example, that Egypt would be at our side forever; that Syria would never, even momentarily, lend a strong arm to the rightwing Christians in Lebanon against us. We never imagined, despite our political differences, that Iraq would have our most eminent militants abroad murdered.

To this erroneous assessment of reality in the Arab world was added a miscalculation. Faced with a situation of conflict in a given Arab country, we generally thought it best to safeguard our relations with the regime in power at the expense of our relationship with the masses contesting it. In this way we scorned the principle which should have guided our steps, namely, that the real source of our strength lies much more in the popular sympathies we arouse than in the support which governments grudgingly offer us. It is true that we have sometimes maintained parallel secret relations with opposition movements. However, since it was kept in ignorance of our behavior, public opinion gleaned the impression that we were implementing an opportunist policy.

Hence we are seen less as revolutionaries than as politicians. This change in our image has obviously damaged our standing with the Arab masses, who expected something else of us. Nor has it insured us great sympathies among Europeans and Americans, by way of compensation. To be sure, unlike our Zionist enemies, we have neither the necessary resources nor the experience in the field of public relations. But the main reason for our failure lies in our ignorance of Western society and the complexity of the democratic mechanisms governing it. More often than not we make hardly any distinction--particularly in the case of the United States--between the imperialist policy pursued by a government and the psychological motivations--perfectly honorable in themselves--which hold the population's attitude toward us. Such confusion leads us neither to take initiatives liable to further alienate Western public opinion or to take refuge in passive despair.

Moreover, we have been unable to unify the Palestinian movement, or at least limit its fragmentation. There are of course objective reasons which have prevented us from achieving this aim. When we founded Fatah we saw it as a front destined to rally all Palestinians, without distinctions between ideologies or political tendencies. Unless we resorted to force--which was ruled out--we could not force genuine leaders like George Habash or Nayif Hawatimah to join our ranks or prevent them from forming their own organizations. But it was perfectly possible for us to oppose strongly the existence of groups entirely created by Arab regimes for use as political or military instruments. In view of the present balance of power it is not possible today to demand their expulsion from the PLO or their dissolution. But we could have taken a firm stand when they were set up shortly after the June 1967 debacle, at a time when Arab regimes, defeated and weakened, would have found it hard to resist our determination.

These puppet Palestinian groups not only weaken the resistance by reducing its cohesion and the effectiveness of its actions but sometimes play a role which is as decisive as it is negative. Because of the one-upmanship they practise, the acts of provocation in which they engage and also the foreign support they enjoy, they have sometimes succeeded in dragging us into adventures which we would otherwise have avoided. The phenomenon is not without precedent. In the field of international relations--to take a well known example--it is not uncommon for a small country, unimportant in itself, to succeed in imposing a damaging policy on an allied great power.

Our erring ways, our failures and our errors are not enough, however, to explain the delicate situation in which the resistance finds itself. It must be said in our defense that we have assumed a task without precedent in history for the difficulties it involves. We lead a movement which, through force of circumstance, cannot enjoy the benefit of a uniform rank and file. The people we are seeking to mobilize and guide are geographically dispersed, psychologically incongruous and politically composite. Palestinians live under different, sometimes contradictory, socioeconomic regimes, which are bound to influence their ideas. They are subjugated under authoritarian systems which do not tolerate dissidence, especially when disagreements or conflicts arise between the state and the resistance. When this happens my compatriots have no choice but to rally to the official line, whether they like it or not, or to take refuge in apparent neutrality, thus escaping probable reprisals.

To spare them such risks we for our part are obliged to humor governments and to shut our eyes to unfriendly behavior against which we would have protested strongly in other circumstances. This in a way limits our freedom of action. Hence people should not be surprised at the range of apparently contradictory attitudes which we adopt according to whether we are dealing with one Arab regime or another. We are comparable to the traveler who, as he moves from one hemisphere to the other, is obliged to take both winter and summer clothes with him as protection against strongly contrasting climates. It is not a question of opportunism, as some people accuse us, but a measure of self-protection.

It is easier to understand us when we maintain that every Palestinian longs above all for a haven, no matter how tiny; a consulate to which he could appeal when he believes he is being wronged or threatened. Are we any less deserving than the citizens of a Gulf emirate? Most Arab states refuse to grant citizenship to Palestinians. So be it. We do not complain. They are doing us a favor, perhaps unintentionally.

They are thus helping to preserve our authenticity and strengthening our determination to find a homeland again. The day we succeed in setting up a state in the liberated territories of the West Bank and Gaza we will begin by issuing identity documents. It is possible that many Palestinians will decide, for reasons of practical convenience, not to opt for residence in the new state. But what does that matter? They will be able to live in the Arab country of their choice without complexes and without anguish. They will at last be treated on an equal footing with all who have a passport to show. And if they feel threatened for one reason or another, they will always have the possibility of packing up and returning to Palestine, where there is no danger of their being treated like outcasts. Over half the Lebanese people live outside their country. And no one has ever contested their right to a state.

The arguments put forward by those who deny us this right are specious. The Palestinian mini-state, they say, will not be economically viable. They pretend to forget that many young nations which have achieved independence since the end of the last world war are less well endowed than us. The Palestinians have a plentiful labor force, a large number of technicians and managers who have completed further education studies and a bourgeoisie rich in capital. Above all they can count on considerable financial aid from the oil-producing states. At any rate, we are much more "viable" than the state of Israel itself.

Will we constitute a threat to Israel? First of all, is it not to say the least paradoxical for the principal military power in the area, which holds 20 Arab countries put together at bay, to claim that its tiny neighbor could threaten its security and its existence? I assert, for my part, that there will be no subversive Palestinian activities the day we have a state to administer and above all to preserve. Extremism will disappear from our ranks, even from those of the "rejection front." George Habash, for example, will not renounce his ideas, but his opposition will respect the institutions and law the Palestinians adopt. He will no longer resort to violence to make his opinions prevail. He will not act any differently from Israeli leaders or parties which contest Zionism, such as the Communist party Rakah, or even the legitimacy of a Jewish state (such as the Naturel Karta religious leaders). This is not wishful thinking on my part. I know what I am talking about. I know the profound patriotism and the sense of responsibility not only of my comrades but of our political adversaries within the Palestinian movement.

If ever reason were to triumph over the Israeli extremists' territorial ambitions, if ever peace--a just peace, not that of Camp David--were to be established, it would be perfectly natural for the borders between Israel and its neighbors to be open. It is logical and normal for a flow of trade to begin and develop between entities which are complementary in more than one respect. How could matters be otherwise, at least as far as I am concerned, when over 500,000 Palestinians live in Israel (within its 1948 borders) and long to establish contact with their brothers living on the West Bank, in Gaza, in the Hashemite kingdom and beyond, in the various Arab states?

The obstacle to such a development does not lie in our camp. It is the Israeli Government which does not want an overall, permanent peace. It is its extremist leaders who fear open borders. They see them as a threat to the cohesion of the Zionist state and its expansionist policy.

On the contrary, by further deepening the rift between our two peoples and maintaining tension they are insuring the Israelis' docility by encouraging their fears, while at the same time continuing the colonization of what Mr Begin calls "Judea and Samaria." None of all this incites one to optimism. Certainly, my role as a revolutionary leader is to inspire hope, to strengthen our people's motivation to continue the struggle. But I also have a duty not to deceive them, not to foster illusions which are more dangerous than painful disappointments. I say this frankly: I do not think my generation will know the joy of seeing the birth of an independent state, even on a tiny part of Palestine.

Of course, nothing is predetermined. There are too many imponderables in the regional and international situation for it to be possible to predict the future. I hope events will prove my pessimism in the short and medium term unfounded. But although I do not rule out an imminent victory, I do not dismiss the possibility of a catastrophe, namely, the paralysis or even the destruction of our movement. It would not be the first or the last time that reactionary and obscurantist forces will have succeeded in aborting a revolution.

However, our people will create a new revolution. They will father a much more powerful movement than ours, with leaders who are better armed than us and therefore more dangerous to the Zionists. There is no possible doubt about the Palestinians' irresistible determination to continue the fight, whatever happens. It is in the nature of things. We are determined to survive as a nation. And one day we will have a country.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH YAR COUNTERPART

LD091510Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The foreign minister of the YAR, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, today held talks--which he described as useful--with the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Al-Asnaj told reporters that the talks, which lasted 90 minutes, dealt with all the issues of common interest. He described the talks as useful and extremely fruitful and said that they are bound to consolidate cooperation between the two Arab countries in various fields.

Al-Asnaj thanked As-Sabah for his full understanding of the conditions prevailing in the YAR and for the preparedness of the brothers in Kuwait to continue to adopt the development projects which are proceeding well in Yemen.

Earlier today, the YAR minister conferred with the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and handed him a message from the Yemeni president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also had a meeting with the crown prince and prime minister, Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and conveyed to him a message from the prime minister, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. Nothing was disclosed about the contents of the two messages.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTRY FIGURES ON 1976 OIL PRODUCTION REPORTED

LD091248Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0832 GMT 9 Jan 79 L

[Text] Riyadh--'Abd al-Aziz at-Turki, under secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs, in charge of petroleum affairs, said that the Kingdom maintains first place among world oil exporters. He said its crude oil and refined products in 1976 reached 3.15 billion barrels and the kingdom's revenue from that reached \$30.8 billion, an increase of 21.7 percent over 1975. At-Turki, in a statement to the annual petroleum statistic bulletin and carried today by AL-MADINAH, said that the confirmed reserves of crude oil in the kingdom by the end of the 1976 reached 115.4 billion barrels, which formed 25.3 percent of world reserves; these amounted to 600 billion barrels, according to published estimates. He explained that the kingdom's reserves of crude oil in 1976 increased by 4.7 percent over 1975 as a result of the discovery of new fields (?such as) the fields of Al-Habari, Al-Hasibah, Suwayan, Ash-Sherar and Al-Wutiyan, in addition to the reassessment of established fields.

The under secretary spoke about the kingdom's oil exports. He said that these went to most areas of the world, and the countries which imported most of this oil in sequence were: Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, Britain, Spain and West Germany. As for the United States, its direct imports from the kingdom in 1976 reached 405,713 barrels daily of crude oil and its refined products, while most of the U.S. imports from the kingdom came in an indirect way through the Caribbean region in the form of refined products from those refineries which import Saudi crude oil. Shaykh Turki said it can be said that the United States takes second place to Japan in the kingdom's exports of crude oil and refined products, as the total direct and indirect imports of this petroleum reached 1.08 million barrels daily.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Turki spoke about the kingdom's refining capacity and consumption. He said that the refining capacity of the five refineries in Ra's al-Tannurah, Jiddah, Riyadh, Mina Port Sa'ud and Ra's al-Khafji, in 1976 reached 703,455 barrels daily, an increase of 22.1 percent over 1975. He said that as a result of the large increase in the average export products and prices and revenue in 1976, the average local public consumption--the refined oil products and natural gas--rose to 222,399 barrels daily, an increase of 27.1 percent over 1975. He went on to add that this growth in local consumption will possibly continue and will accelerate for a long time. He explained that the public consumption of gasoline--regular and premium--increased by 33 percent over 1975. The public's consumption of industrial fuel oil rose from 23.22 million barrels in 1975 to 31.6 million in 1976, an increase of 36.2 percent.

UAE

NEW PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY TO BE APPOINTED

JN091502Y Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 9, INA--The United Arab Emirates is to witness a number of changes soon, including the appointment of a new prime minister.

Reporting this, AL-ANBA' daily quoted what was described as reliable sources as saying that Shaykh Rashid Ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice-president, will be appointed new prime minister in the next two months.

The sources said an agreement to this effect was reached by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuha'yan and other rulers of the seven emirates which constitute the federation.

The daily said the objective of these changes will be aimed at confronting the new stage in the life of the federation and to cope with the current developments in the Arab Gulf.

NEW COMMANDER OF UAE FORCES IN LEBANON LEAVES ABU DHABI

JN091342Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 January--Staff Lt Col 'Ali an-Nayim today left Abu Dhabi for Lebanon to assume his new position as commander of the UAE contingent in the Arab Deterrent Forces. UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuha'yan asked Lt Col 'Ali to extend his greetings to all officers and soldiers serving in Lebanon. The president also stressed that the UAE participation in the Arab Deterrent Forces is proof that we belong to the Arab nation.

Lt Col an-Nayim expressed the hope that peace and security will be restored in Lebanon so that the fraternal Lebanese people can rebuild their society and join with their fraternal Arab brothers in confronting the common enemy. He also wished progress and prosperity to Lebanon.

U.S. MONITORING STATION MOVED FROM IRAN TO DUBAI

LD100947Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Text] Our Arab affairs editor writes: Gulf sources have said that an electronic monitoring and surveillance station which had been in Iran was recently moved to Jabal 'Ali in the Emirate of Dubai. Citing reports, the sources said that the U.S. surveillance station was recently moved from Iran to Dubai in accordance with an agreement stipulating that the United States should not use the station against gulf security interests.

YEMEN--PDY

MENA REPORTS FIGHTING IN SOUTH YEMEN

NC091412Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--A military spokesman of the office of the United National Front of South Yemen in Cairo has stated that violent battles are now taking place between elements of the front and the forces of the communist regime in South Yemen and that these battles, which have been raging since last Wednesday, have included the second, third and fourth governorates.

In a statement he issued today, the spokesman said that the fighting is mainly taking place in (Al-Madaribah) area in (As-Sabihah) where the resistance members have launched blitzkreig attacks on positions in Al-Hawashib, Ad-Dali and (Karsh), inflicting heavy losses among the forces of the communist regime. They killed three dark-complexioned Cuban soldiers in the lower area of (As-Sabihah). The resistance men also killed eight soldiers of the civilian government, including Capt Muhammad Shayif Thabit and Thabit az-Zaw Muhyi, the official in charge of intelligence in the state security apparatus in the second governorate, commissioner of (Al-Madaribah) district and director of security of the district.

The spokesman added that fierce battles are continuing in Makayris and (Abin) districts. The spokesman stressed that the battles now taking place on the land of South Yemen are the beginning of a new stage in the confrontation of the present regime in Aden following the formation of the military nucleus of the Yemen Liberation Army which has begun carrying out its duties.

The military spokesman of the office of the United National Front of South Yemen in Cairo appealed to the fraternal Arab states and the friendly states to extend all forms of support for the struggle of the Yemeni fighters opposing the communist regime and foreign interference in their country.

YEMEN--YAR

CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS HOME FROM BAGHDAD

JN091744Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah, chief of staff of the armed forces, and the accompanying military delegation today returned to San'a' from Baghdad after attending Iraq's celebrations on the 58th anniversary of the Iraqi Army.

They were received at the airport by the interior minister, the adviser to the commander in chief of the armed forces and several army commanders.

The chief of staff described his visit to fraternal Iraq as successful.

VICTORIES OVER 'SABOTEURS' FROM SOUTH YEMEN REPORTED

JN091829Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Reports continue to arrive about the victories our valiant armed forces and brave tribesmen have scored over the gangs of saboteurs exported to us by the clique of agentry, treason and conspiracy dominating the southern part of the homeland.

This proves that our people's masses and brave armed forces are solidly behind their wise national leadership under Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. No doubt these victories also mean successive defeats to the clique of agents in power in Aden under the leadership of the arch agent, the unfaithful and untrustworthy leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

The large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives as well as the many vehicles seized by our armed forces and brave tribesmen are sufficient to enable us to save the funds used in importing such arms and to use them instead in building more schools, hospitals and roads; in digging more wells; in establishing more industries; and in reclaiming more agricultural lands. It is a pity indeed that the clique of agents, slogan traders and proletariat dervishes is squandering the funds of our stricken people in the south in purchasing arms, ammunition, explosives, poisonous materials and various means of destruction, instead of using these funds in providing essential foodstuffs; improving public services; building schools, hospitals and roads; digging wells; establishing industries; and reclaiming agricultural land. But how can we expect anything good from worthless agents? As the saying goes: One cannot give what he does not have.

We only hope that the clique of agents led by the arch agent, the unfaithful and untrustworthy leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il has learned its lesson from the defeats we have dealt and are dealing to it and to the gangs it is exporting to us. We hope that it will stop its aggression and conspiracies and try instead of solve its own problems, whether within the clique's leadership or between the leadership and the masses of our revolutionary people in the south. The brave stand put up by our valiant armed forces and brave tribesmen against the gangs of saboteurs serves as cogent proof of the determination of all our people's masses to defend their gains and revolutionary achievements and to proceed with the development program. It also serves as cogent proof that all the sectors of our people are solidly behind their national leadership and government under the president and faithful leader Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Should all this happen for the clique of agency--crime and conspiracy, which deal in false alien slogans under the arch agent and traitor, the unfaithful and untrustworthy 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il--let it be known that our people in the north will not allow it to turn their paradise into hell; their prosperity into poverty, hunger and starvation; their security into anarchy; their achievements into ruins; and their legitimate aspirations into a mirage. Our people would rather die than see their northern region suffer in the same way as the southern region.

Let the clique of agency and terrorism know that our national government refuses to compete with it in exporting saboteurs and means of sabotage, in conspiring against the well-being of Yemen, or in outbidding in slogans. Our national government challenges that clique to compete with it in carrying out useful projects, in showing loyalty to Yemen, Arabism and Islam and in achieving the people's national hopes and aspirations. Let our people be the judge. No matter how aggressive the clique of agents is, we are confident that it will not achieve anything. It must pay the price of its conspiracies, agency and inhuman experiences. There is no doubt that our people's masses in the southern region whose upheaval has spread to many of the provinces, is capable of overthrowing the regime of the hireling agent 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, so the dawn of freedom will rise once again in our beloved southern region. Let the agents drown in their agency. Let us proceed on the path of development, reconstruction and progress behind our president and leader of our march, the leader President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Victory is ours. God is great. The people must judge.

LONDON PAPER REPORTS MUSLIM-COPTIC CLASHES IN EGYPT

LD100949Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Text] Cairo--Serious sectarian clashes between Copts and Muslims have taken place in Asyut Province. The Egyptian security forces had to intervene to stop the clashes and prevent them from spreading to other Egyptian areas.

On the instructions of President Anwar as-Sadat Egyptian Interior Minister an-Nabawi Ismail personally supervised the security forces' operation and the current investigations with a view to containing the sectarian problems that have shaken upper Egypt in the past few days.

The sectarian clashes in Asyut began 10 days ago. They first broke out at Asyut University where Copts and Muslims exchanged accusations through wall posters. This developed into clashes between students in which elements from outside the university became involved.

The situation later developed into bloody clashes throughout the province that lasted several days.

President as-Sadat made great efforts to settle two communal crises in 1971 and 1972. He also settled a family feud in Al-Minya during a visit to the province last month.

Those who participated in containing the new sectarian strife in Egypt include Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, deputy prime minister and secretary of the National Democratic Party headed by As-Sadat, as well as Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Dr 'Abd Ar-Rahman Baybar. Both men made great efforts to calm down the Islamic and Christian sides when they visited Asyut together with Minister Isma'il. The three men met with the governor of Asyut and with Muslim and Christian leaders in the province to settle the crisis, which has been completely ignored by the Egyptian papers to prevent the disturbances from spreading to other Egyptian towns and provinces.

It is recalled that the Asyut Province is inhabited by an equal number of Muslims and Christians and includes the largest section of the Coptic community in Egypt.

Islamic, Coptic Leaders Meet

LD100951Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Cairo--Intensive efforts are being made in Egypt to contain the sectarian clashes that have broken out in upper Egypt in the past few days. A meeting was held yesterday between People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib and Pope Shinudah, the Coptic pope of Egypt. Their discussions dealt with the application of Islamic laws in Egypt.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the People's Assembly speaker obtained Pope Shinudah's approval of this principle on the grounds that Islam guarantees freedom and equality for all other heavenly religions.

The Egyptian People's Assembly has begun a great effort to apply Islamic laws. An Islamic law on civilian and commercial transactions is expected to be enacted in the next few weeks.

Abu Talib has distributed copies of the draft law to leading Shari'ah law and legal experts for urgent study.

The meeting between Abu Talib and Pope Shimudah was aimed at calming the Egyptian Copts and consulting them on the new law so that it will not cause a negative reaction among them.

AS-SADAT TOURS KARKAR AREA, MEETS REPORTERS

NC091306Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat made a field tour at noon today. He visited Wadi Karkar area, where he inspected the farm there, which has an area of 250 feddans and is being cultivated by means of spraying. His excellency gave the necessary directions to those responsible for this project to increase agricultural production. His excellency also inspected the new projects from the air.

The president was accompanied by Presidential Assistant Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Presidential Adviser Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani Al-Jamasi; Reconstruction and New Societies Minister Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi; Aswan Governor Ahmad Taha.

President Anwar as-Sadat congratulated those who are carrying out this great project. He pointed out that this area was a desert last year but was now green. He said that he was making this statement from inside the house of a family after the land around it became green. His excellency called for action to fill all the land with greenery and growth for the sake of the great Egyptian people.

At the end of his tour in Wadi Karkar area, where he inspected the cultivated lands and well stations, President as-Sadat answered reporters' questions. Answering a question, he said that what has been achieved so far is for the sake of Egypt's future and hope.

Asked about peace in the Middle East, the president said that peace is imminent despite Mr. Begin's hesitation. The president said that he would work for the reform of the new lands and that special programs for this have been prepared. Peace, he said, is a question of time only and is imminent; we have the basic foundations for peace.

Asked if he had received a reply from Washington, President as-Sadat said that he had not. Let us wait for the next few days.

Answering a question on the possibilities of peace, the president said that 95 percent has been achieved so far. The peace problem is not the number one problem, it might be problem number two or three.

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 9 January adds that "asked about reports that a U.S. official would visit the area soon, President as-Sadat said that nobody had told him about this. The president called for a wait and see attitude over what might happen in the next few days. His excellency said that he does not feel impatient because of the negotiation process. President as-Sadat explained that the peace problem is not the number one problem but might be problem number two or three. The main problem, he said, is turning the desert into a green land."

LUTFI: EGYPT TO REQUEST \$2 BILLION FROM U.S., FRG, JAPAN

NC092219Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--Finance Dr 'Ali Lutfi has announced that this year Egypt is expected to ask for about \$2 billion from the United States, the FRG and Japan. This request will be made in accordance with President Anwar as-Sadat's announcement that he would call on these states to implement a project similar to the Marshall Plan to be called the "Carter plan."

At a press conference he held today, the finance minister said that under the 1979 plan, investments will amount to 2.56 billion pounds. This sum has been calculated in accordance with the national revenues available, without taking into account any other revenues that can be received through foreign grants or loans.

The finance minister explained that acting within the framework for rectifying the economic course, the government is now conducting intensive studies aimed at directing the subsidies to be made under the general budget. These subsidies amount to about 1.176 billion pounds in this year's budget. The government wants these subsidies to go to those quarters that indeed deserve them.

The minister said that these studies would be concluded in the first half of this year and submitted to the National Democratic Party before they are approved.

At the press conference, the finance minister explained that most of the economic problems Egypt is suffering from are due to the burdens of the numerous wars Egypt has waged over the past 30 years. He said that the 1967-73 war burdens had cost Egypt around 16 billion pounds. This was in addition to the problem of population growth, which consumes all the efforts being exerted for development.

The finance minister pointed out that only the prices of luxury commodities have been increased, without any burdens having been added to people with limited income.

The foreign correspondents heard the finance minister explain the figures of the state general budget, which he had announced in the statement he made to the People's Assembly yesterday. These figures total 13 billion pounds.

The finance minister stressed the strength of the Egyptian economy and its potential, despite the deficit existing in the state general budget. He announced that the volume of national production now amounts to 10 billion pounds, adding that the target is to increase this to 11 billion pounds by the end of 1979.

Answering questions by the foreign correspondents, Dr 'Ali Lutfi noted that the armed forces expenditure for 1979 is about 200 million pounds over last year's expenditure.

To another question, the minister said that the Egyptian economy can easily accommodate \$10 billion, if this is granted as loans or grants within the next 5 years.

The finance minister pointed out that in this year's budget, the state has allocated well over 225 million pounds for food security projects, compared with 122.6 million pounds last year. The minister said he hopes that through the food security projects, agricultural self-sufficiency will be achieved in addition to increasing the prospects for exporting agricultural products.

In his press conference, which he gave to the representatives of the world media, the finance minister explained the government's efforts in the area of building new towns to eliminate the problems of overpopulation from which the present towns are suffering.

The minister said that the allocations for these projects under the new budget have exceeded 290 million pounds, compared with 266 million pounds for last year and 124 million pounds under the 1977 budget.

SABRI: ARABS SHOULD LEARN DEMOCRATIC LESSON FROM IRAN

LD091609Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "Neither Money Nor Arms"]

[Excerpts] I wish that some of the Arab countries would look around them with clear vision, progressive thinking and sound understanding of human nature in the present stage of human liberation that the world is experiencing today.

What is happening in Iran must be a useful lesson for some of the Arab countries. It is not money that preserves a regime nor arms that protect it. The principal means of stability for any regime is justice, respect for personal freedoms and the establishment of the rule of law. It is such democratic principles that protect the people against becoming the victim of plots by major powers, be they Western or Soviet.

The game of exploiting the East-West conflict is no longer valid because eventually the major powers may come to an agreement on dividing spheres of influence. There are no passions in political relations; it is interests alone that come first.

Therefore, we say that the rule of steel and fire in Iraq, Syria, Libya or elsewhere cannot continue. Mass executions of communists and noncommunists in Iraq are a sign of shakiness and instability. They can never be the means to protect the ruling regime regardless of how much money and arms the regime has. Regardless of the many terrible prisons in Syria, the methods of coercion and torture and the resounding slogans, one day such prisons will be destroyed by the people's will.

Sooner or later, absolute rule will no longer exist in the Arab area, and any failure to grasp this truth betrays backward thinking incapable of looking to the future.

The democratic experiment in Egypt has incited the hatred of despotic rulers for the Egyptian regime. For this reason they have been trying for several years through their radio and press to detract from this experiment. But all their attempts have failed and will continue to fail.

The emperors of Baghdad, Damascus and Tripoli realize that Egyptian democracy is their bitterest enemy because it is the hope of the Iraqi, Syrian, Libyan and other peoples. Therefore, they are slandering the Egyptian regime to defend and perpetuate their rule of steel and fire.

But this is only a transitory stage since their efforts are bound to fail because peoples accept nothing less than democracy in rule.

AMBASSADORS EMPHASIZE INEVITABILITY OF ARAB SOLIDARITY

NC091323Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--The Egyptian ambassadors and diplomatic envoys to the Arab states have emphasized that the Arab nation can overcome the fabricated and transient crises that obstruct solidarity among the Arab people, and then surge forward to wider horizons of genuine Arab solidarity to achieve the aspirations for the sake of which Egypt has always borne the greater burden of the struggle.

During their diplomatic conference in Cairo, the Egyptian ambassadors to the Arab countries explained the indisputable fact that any attempts to drive a wedge between the Egyptian and Arab peoples are doomed to failure, and that the Arab people condemn those who attempt to sow dissension between Egypt and its fraternal Arab states because they are thus working against the interests of Arab nationalism.

MENA has learned that a number of ambassadors delivered statements during their conference, which began yesterday, emphasizing that future inter-Arab relations promise to overcome the fabricated crises that only aim at achieving personal or foreign ambitions.

In their statements, the Egyptian envoys pointed out that Egypt's presence in all the Arab states is a deep, tangible fact creating deep-rooted ties and relations. No regime, however hostile or malevolent, can deny this presence or disrupt it. The ambassadors proved this by pointing to the efforts by Egyptian experts in all the Arab states. They asserted that the Egyptian citizens enjoy the great appreciation and respect of the people among whom they work as brothers.

In their statements, the Egyptian ambassadors lauded the glorious role played by the Arab states that firmly, sincerely and faithfully support Egypt's persistent efforts to regain Arab rights and achieve the Arab nation's sublime interests--particularly Sudan, Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman and the YAR.

In this respect, the ambassadors noted that a number of Arab states have been pressured to adopt stands contrary to the Egyptian efforts, despite the fact that these states are convinced that Egypt's efforts are aimed at finding a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem that would enable the Arab people to dedicate their efforts to attaining prosperity and stability and resist foreign attempts to infiltrate the area.

It is known that the conference is now convening in the Foreign Ministry under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. It is attended by all the Egyptian ambassadors and heads of the offices looking after Egyptian interests in the Arab capitals. The conference is assessing the situation in the Arab world and Egypt's relations with the various Arab states.

More on Ambassadors' Conference

NC092029Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--The conference of Egyptian ambassadors and diplomats accredited to the Arab states continued this evening to complete the discussion of the topics on the conference's agenda.

One of the topics is a general assessment of the situation in the Arab world, Egypt's separate relations with each Arab state, and the impact of events taking place in surrounding states on the Arab world.

During its evening session, the conference analyzed the Arab position in light of Dr Butrus Ghali's opening speech yesterday, of the ambassadors' statements, and of the working paper that has been submitted by the General Secretariat of the conference. In this paper, the General Secretariat summarized the recommendations and the proposals that have been raised at the conference sessions.

The discussions have shown that the Arab masses are now increasingly understanding Egypt's sound position, which is based on achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East that would safeguard Arab rights. The Arab masses' understanding follows the failure of attempts to distort Egypt's stands after it has become obvious to all how much Egypt has insisted on a comprehensive and just settlement during all the talks that have been held with Israel.

MENA has learned that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has discussed the situation in the Arab world with the Egyptian ambassadors in light of the rapid developments surrounding the area.

At the evening session, the discussion dealt with Egypt's leading role in the Arab world, Egypt's assumption of its pan-Arab responsibilities, and the attention Egypt constantly devotes to cooperation with its Arab brothers in warding off all the dangers threatening the Arab area.

The discussion has confirmed the fact that just because Egypt is on the move does not signify that it is unaware of the problems in the Arab area. Even more, the discussion has shown that Egypt will always use all its might to remain the guardian and defender of its Arab nation.

The discussion has also emphasized that Egypt wants to prevent Arab disarray, close ranks and consolidate Arab solidarity.

The conference will conclude its meeting tomorrow by issuing specific recommendations that fall within the framework of Egypt's objectives and policies and are based on a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab issue and on consolidating Arab solidarity.

SALIM LEAVES CAIRO FOR EAST AFRICA TOUR

NC091827Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1656 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 January--Presidential Assistant Mamduh Salim left Cairo for Dar es Salaam this evening for a visit to Tanzania. This is the first leg of a tour that will take him to five east African states as the special envoy of President Anwar as-Sadat to Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya and Uganda.

Mamduh Salim said before his departure that he is carrying personal letters from President Anwar as-Sadat to the presidents of these states that are connected with the Egyptian efforts to establish a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East. He added that he will hold consultations with the heads of these states on fateful issues concerning the African Continent in order to confirm Egypt's African commitment.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA

NC091458Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt is following the military confrontation in Cambodia with concern, and that Egypt would like to emphasize the following facts:

1. Egypt believes that the Indochinese peoples and states, which have long suffered from devastating wars, are entitled to enjoy a real peace permitting their peoples to rebuild in quiet and security what the years of bloody conflict have destroyed.
2. Egypt calls on all parties to respect the principles of noninterference in domestic affairs and the right of peoples to establish regimes that will realize their hopes for achieving progress and prosperity and raising their standard of living and peaceful development without any foreign interference or pressure.
3. Egypt calls for a peaceful settlement of the disputes among states in accordance with the principles of nonalignment without providing an opportunity for the big powers to exploit these disputes to achieve their own aims, which might contradict the interests of these states and peoples.

The spokesman added: Egypt, which wants to maintain friendly relations with Cambodia, Vietnam and all states in the area, reaffirms that it opposes any aggression or interference in the internal affairs of these states.

ARMY COMMANDER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON ANNIVERSARY

JN091720Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 January--Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, general commander of the popular army, has affirmed that the units of the popular army enjoy the distinctive support and backing of the revolution and party leaderships headed by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

At a press conference this morning on the ninth anniversary of the formation of the popular army, Comrade Ramadan said that the fighters of the popular army are inspired [words indistinct] the ideology, principles and objectives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The press conference was attended by Arab and world newspaper reporters and news agency correspondents.

In answer to a question on the popular army's role at the current stage, Comrade Ramadan said: This role is not defined in accordance with this or that stage, but is an urgent and permanent necessity linked to the party's understanding of and belief in the role of the masses in defending the revolution and safeguarding its gain, as well in confronting the critical circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, particularly in the wake of the settlement conspiracies epitomized in the Camp David agreements, which have led to grave circumstances in the Arab nation.

The general commander of the Popular Army pointed out that his units are qualified to carry out any role assigned to them inside or outside the country. They have proved this in their previous participation in pan-Arab tasks. He added that the current year will witness big activity in increasing the size of the popular army because this is linked to the delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing.

PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH NATIONAL LEADERS

Popular Struggle Delegation Arrives

JN092119Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--A delegation of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, led by Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the front, arrived here this evening on a several-days' visit to Iraq.

In a press statement Dr Ghawshah said that the political changes the Arab region is witnessing at this stage and the wide pressures of the imperialist and Zionist forces with their ally, As-Sadat's regime, require holding consultations between the national and progressive forces, foremost of which is the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The aim of these consultations is to bolster the struggle of our Palestinian Arab people and serve the aims of our Arab nation.

Dr Ghawshah praised the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria. He also praised the accomplishments achieved on the road to the two countries' unity and the charter's positive and great influence on the steadfastness and struggle of the masses of our Palestinian Arab people, as well as on the escalation of armed struggle in the face of the imperialist-Zionist plot.

Ar-Razzaz Meets With Habash

JN091827Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met in the national command building here this evening with a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], headed by Secretary General Dr George Habash.

During the meeting, a discussion was held on issues of Arab struggle at the current stage, particularly pertaining to the Palestinian revolution's struggle against the capitulatory settlement conspiracies, in light of the Baghdad summit conference and the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Iraq and Syria.

Al-Bakr Receives Al-'Abbas, Habash

JN091110Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received separately here this morning the delegation of the Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Abu al-'Abbas, the front's assistant secretary general, and the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Secretary General Dr George Habash.

The meetings centered on a review of the political developments in the Arab area following the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Iraq and Syria, and on the repercussions of this charter on the Palestinian revolution and the future of the Palestinian struggle.

The two meetings were attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member, and Abu Waddah and Abu Shihab, members of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The two Palestinian delegations are currently on a visit to Iraq.

DELEGATION LEAVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

JN090921Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--An Iraqi delegation led by Vice President Taha Muhyi Ad-Din Ma'ruf left for Paris this morning on a 3-day visit to France at the invitation of the French Government.

The delegation accompanying Ma'ruf is made up of Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister; Dr Sadun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs; Dr Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, minister of information; Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and other Iraqi officials.

The vice president and the delegation accompanying him will hold talks with French officials on strengthening and expanding cooperation between Iraq and France in the political, economic, cultural and information spheres. The talks will also deal with the exchange of views on Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

MAJOR HADDAD THREATENS TO STRIKE TYRE IN SOUTH

JN091923Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Jan 79 JH

[Text] Beirut, 9 January--Agent Maj Sa'd Haddad today threatened to strike the southern city of Tyre if the joint forces do not withdraw from it in 4 days.

In another development, the INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that a meeting was held tonight between UNIFIL and Zionist officers in the An-Naqurah border town.

It will be recalled that Zionist moves continue against the UN forces.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD: UNIFIL SHOULD BECOME DETERRENT FORCE

NC091840Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today met at the Presidential Palace and discussed ways to deal with the domestic situation and the situation in the south during the coming phase.

Concerning the south, the new idea on the agenda is for Lebanon to apply to the UN Security Council and insist that UNIFIL be turned into deterrent forces even if this elicits refusal to extend its mandate. This is suggested because the presence of the UNIFIL in its current form has not changed the unusual and unnatural situation in the south.

Speaker al-As'ad developed this plan and believes that Lebanon is passing through an historic and fateful phase.

The subject of the meeting between President Sarkis and Speaker al-As'ad was confined to the position that will be taken by Lebanon in the Security Council in view of the dangers that stem from the complicated situation in the south.

Speaker al-As'ad said: I requested that Lebanon take a position in the Security Council that would insure the proper means for the UNIFIL to implement the Security Council's resolution concerning the liberation of territories and the imposition of the state's authority on these territories. Otherwise, the extension of the UNIFIL mandate under the present conditions is a consolidation of the current realities and constitutes a coverup of the UN's failure to implement its resolution. This, in turn, consolidates the loss of the south.

If the Security Council refuses to turn the UNIFIL into a deterrent force capable of salvaging southern Lebanon, then it is certain that an end to their mandate is better than an extension under the present circumstances. In that case, an end to the mandate will embarrass the Security Council and lead it to search for ways to implement Resolution 425 or abolish it. This responsibility rests on the entire international community.

We should also consider that if the Lebanese Government takes this position in the Security Council and the Security Council refuses to agree to it, the Lebanese Government can later agree to the extension of the UNIFIL mandate.

Speaker al-As'ad added: This is the way I see the Lebanese attitude, which we consider to be national and historic in the full sense of the word since it reflects on self-determination and responsibility.

DEFENSE MINISTER TALAS RETURNS FROM MOSCOW 9 JAN

JN092139Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, returned to Damascus tonight from Moscow following an official visit to the Soviet Union at the head of a military delegation in response to the invitation of Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

General Talas and his accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by Marshal Ustinov; a number of high-ranking Soviet officers; Jabri al-Kafri, the Syrian ambassador in Moscow; and the embassy staff.

KHADDAM BRIEFS CABINET ON POLITICAL SITUATION

JN091644Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1100 today the Cabinet convened under Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and heard a political review by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, on the current situation and new developments in the region.

During this meeting, the cabinet also discussed the topics listed on its agenda.

Receives YAR Envoy

JN072122Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 2000 today Yahya Jaghman, the personal representative of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who delivered a letter from the YAR president to President Hafiz al-Assad. The meeting was attended by the YAR ambassadors in Damascus and Amman and Muhammad Khadr, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

ENVOY IN KUWAIT ON SYRIAN-IRAQI MILITARY COOPERATION

JN091045Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 January--'Abd ar-Razzaq Shakir, Syrian ambassador to Kuwait, has stressed that all obstacles impeding the movement of Iraqi Armed Forces to Syria have been eliminated after the signing of the Joint National Action Charter in October.

In a statement to Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH today, the Syrian ambassador pointed out that the Iraqi and Syrian armies are fully coordinated and prepared to defend Arab land. He added that all restrictions on the movement of both armies in the two countries have also been lifted.

Shakir said that the pumping of Iraqi oil to Syria will resume soon following a 2-year suspension. However, the pipelines must be repaired before the pumping resumes.

The Syrian ambassador ruled out the possibility of withdrawing the Syrian forces from Lebanon before the continued differences are solved and coexistence is restored there. The presence of the Syrian forces, which constitute the backbone of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon, is, however, left up to President Ilyas Sarkis, who can decide whether these forces should stay or not.

LIBYA

JALLUD ADDRESSES ARAB CONGRESS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

LD092140Y Tripoli JANA in English 0943 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 9, Jamahiriya News Agency--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud met yesterday members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress at the People's Palace in Tripoli.

He called for the necessity of doubling the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to fulfill its unity message of the national sphere and to work for moving the Arab man to make him feel his important role being the owner of the cause.

Staff-Major Jallud clarified that the Arab man enjoys all the national factors in spite of the psychological struggles he experiences when expose him to the attempts of inner destruction to the extent that his thought almost became paralysed and indifferent. Staff-Major Jallud affirmed that the Arab People's Congress constitutes a unity prelude for the Arab nation. He said that the colonialist and Zionist forces believed that they were in political circumstances which enable them to hinder the march but the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front constituted a very important factor in constricting these attempts.

He indicated that imperialism and Arab reaction exerted desperate attempts to put an end to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front so that it will not create progressive forces as that constitutes danger to their interests, and as the [words indistinct] the true path for the liberation of Palestine and an historic and national start for our Arab nation's struggle.

Staff-Major Jallud demanded the necessity of continuation of meetings and conferences organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress in order to transfer the Arab citizen from the dictating process to the process of thinking and initiative, and in order to become a prelude for an Arab, national and people's movement supporting progressive regimes.

Staff-Major Jallud said that our interest in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is a national interest and not that of [words indistinct].

Hosts Dinner

LD092141Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud gave a dinner yesterday on the ship Gharnata in honor of the members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress which is currently meeting in Tripoli.

SDAR, YAR DIPLOMATIC VISITS TAKE PLACE

LD100945Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic has arrived in Tripoli on a visit to last a few days. He was welcomed at Tripoli airport by Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam Turayki.

YAR Foreign Under Secretary Arrives

LD100948Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Ahmad Muhammad Haydar, the foreign under secretary of the Yemen Arab Republic has also arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed by the foreign under secretary and a protocol official

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS 3-DAY VISIT

LD091415Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Frigyes Puja, the Hungarian foreign minister, this morning left Tripoli following a 3-day visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he had talks about strengthening lateral cooperation relations between the Jamahiriyah and Hungary.

Frigyes Puja made a statement to the JANA representative in which he praised the achievements he saw in the Jamahiriyah. He said: These achievements confirm the ability of the Libyan Arab people to build themselves and to realize their aspirations. He stressed that his visit to the Jamahiriyah will give a strong impetus to bilateral relations because direct contacts are an important factor in strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries. At the end of his statement he expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the extensive hospitality with which he and his delegation were received throughout their visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The Hungarian minister was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, the assistant secretary for political affairs, directors of the departments at the Foreign Secretariat and the ambassadors of the socialist countries to the Jamahiriyah.

Press Statement on Visit

LD091540Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--A press statement was published today on the visit of the Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja, to the Jamahiriyah.

The statement emphasized the need to increase and deepen the continuing cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical and scientific fields.

Views were exchanged on the situation in the Arab region. They emphasized that it constitutes a threat to international security and peace. They agreed that the attempts which are being made by colonialism, Zionism and reaction, such as the agreements of Camp David, cannot possibly lead to the solution of the explosive situation in the region, but are aimed at pushing through the capitulatory and separatist solutions to liquidate the issues of the Palestinian people. To strike at their just struggle for the liberation of their land and for a return to the homeland, to determine their own fate and to establish their own state in Palestine.

The two sides affirmed the importance placed on the shoulders of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in foiling the attempts and designs aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue.

They also underlined the importance of the resolutions of the Conference of Steadfastness and Confrontation and the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad in foiling the capitulatory and separate political designs which constitute a threat to the interests of the Arab people.

The two sides agreed to make further efforts to support the liberation movements which struggle for the elimination of racism and colonialism in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. They condemned the colonialist [word indistinct] in Africa.

They supported the convening of a world conference for disarmament as soon as possible, and asserted the peoples' right to defend their freedom against imperialism and racism. They also underlined the need to liquidate colonialist military bases and the withdrawal of the armed forces from the Mediterranean region.

The two sides highly appreciated the constructive role which the nonaligned countries are playing in upholding the causes of struggle, justice and right.

They agreed to find a new international economic order founded on a just and equal basis that will enable all the peoples to control their own natural resources.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere in which the talks were held--(the atmosphere) which expressed the spirit of firm relations between the two countries in particular, and the spirit of cooperation existing between the progressive forces in the Arab homeland and the countries of the socialist community in general.

MAURITANIA

MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAYS NO ELECTIONS FOR 2 YEARS

PA092214Y Paris AFP in French 1528 GMT 9 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 9 Jan (AFP)--Mauritanian Interior Minister Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck stated in a recent interview with the Arab magazine AL-WATAN AL-ARABI, published in Paris, that there will be no elections in Mauritania for "at least" 2 years. "This period," he added, "is indispensable for the consolidation of state institutions."

The minister also said that "priority must be given to the reorganization of the administrative structure. That is the first step in every effort to establish democratic institutions."

CHINESE FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION VISITS, DEPARTS

PA092146Y Paris AFP in French 1526 GMT 9 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 9 Jan (AFP)--A delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries left Nouakchott Monday after a 12-day visit to Mauritania. During its stay the delegation was received by Mauritanian Chief of State Col Mostapha Ould Mohamed Saleck as well as by many government officials. It also visited the towns of Rosso, Houadhibou and Kiffa. In the last town, located in central Mauritania, the delegation attended the inauguration of a medical center financed and built by China.

Mauritanian-Chinese cooperation is very successful. In Nouakchott China has built a youth palace, a house of culture, a national hygiene center and a power plant. Other immediate projects under consideration are a deep-water port in the southern part of the capital city and an Olympic stadium to seat 10,000 persons.

In the rural area in Mauritania, China is especially active in the agricultural and livestock field. In the southern part of the country it has set up an experimental rice farm and drilled wells. In the field of sanitation it has participated in building medical centers.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES IVORY COAST FOREIGN MINISTER

LD100646Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Hassan II received Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Simeon Ake at the royal palace in Marrakesh. Mr Ake was accompanied by the director of protocol of the Republic's presidency. The Ivorian envoy delivered a personal message to his majesty the king from President Houphouet-Boigny. The meeting was attended by Gen Moulay al-Hafid al-'Alawi, minister of the royal palaces, protocol and medals [name and title as heard], his majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira and Driss Slaoui, and Brig (Ahmad Dlimi), director of the office of the king's aides-de-camp and the ambassador of the Ivory Coast to Morocco.

SUDAN

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN091434Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 9 January--Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish foreign minister, left Khartoum today after a short visit to Sudan. The Spanish minister is currently on swing through African countries that will include Ethiopia and Kenya.

The Spanish foreign minister held successful talks with his Sudanese counterpart. They exchanged viewpoints on several African issues, the Middle East problem and the persisting world crisis. They also reviewed bilateral relations.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON 3-4 JANUARY RAIDS

ID100024Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A statement issued by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry states that the Saharan Liberation Army, within the framework of the Houari Boumediene offensive, launched several raids against Moroccan royalist positions in Tifariti, Jdiriya and Semara on 3 and 4 January. These raids resulted in 34 royalist soldiers being killed and no less than 20 wounded, in addition to the destruction of several military installations, depots and vehicles.

KNESSET QUERY ON U.S. ACTIVITIES IN WEST BANK

TA091409Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 79 p 3 TA

[Text] Doesn't the Defense Ministry regard U.S. assistance in economic activities in Judea and Samaria as shameless interference in a sphere which is within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the Israeli Government and its Defense Ministry? This question was posed in a Knesset query to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by MK Katz-'Oz. MK Katz-'Oz is basing his query on an article published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT about U.S. State Department assistance--disguised as charity activities--to projects in the territories (among them, a large irrigation project). He demands to know: What is the scope of investments in the above-mentioned projects? What is the role of the U.S. State Department in financing these projects? How will the irrigation project affect Israel's balance of power? And, has the Government of Israel contacted the U.S. State Department, explaining the serious nature of that activity and demanding that it be stopped?

LIBERALS ACCEPT MODA'I GETTING COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

TA091656Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Jan 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] About an hour ago, the Liberal faction in the Likud decided to agree to Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i receiving the communications portfolio. However, during the faction meeting harsh criticism was leveled against the way the prime minister manipulated the shuffle and on the fact that the Liberals and the MAFDAL have received less than their share.

Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i clarified at the meeting that the coalition may be dissolved as a result of the portfolio reshuffle affair and that the approval of the prime minister's proposal would only serve as an opening for a serious coalition crisis.

PERES NOTES LABOR PARTY STANCE ON AUTONOMY

TA091309Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 79 p 3 TA

[Text] If the peace treaty with Egypt is brought to the Knesset for approval, the majority of the Labor Party will vote in favor of completing the peace process with Egypt. If the autonomy issue is brought for approval, the Labor Party will insist on four principles: Retention of settlements established in the Jordan Valley and Gush 'Etziyon, the continued linkage of these settlements to Israel, the IDF will deploy along the same lines set down by the settlements and its deployment will express our concepts concerning defensible borders; the status of Jerusalem will remain as it is.

This position of the Labor Party was made clear by the party chairman, MK Shim'on Peres, at a convention of the secretaries of Habibbutz Hame'uhad held at Ef'al.

Peres related that as his meeting with As-Sadat in Vienna he had proposed to the Egyptian president that the airports at 'Etziyon and Eytam be evacuated only after the peace process with all the Arab countries has been completed. As-Sadat, who did not oppose this idea, even proposed to apply the same terms to the settlements in the Rafah approaches. This proposal was rejected by Peres, whereas the cabinet went even further in its concessions at Camp David.

The chairman of the Settlement Committee of Hakibbutz Hame'uhad, Yitzhaq Hulatí, reported on the implementation of a settlement plan meant to strengthen the settlements in the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights.

The secretary of Hakibbutz Hame'uhad, Ya'aqov Tzur, demanded that the struggle of the settlements and of the party be made clear, to the effect that the terms for peace are implied by the line of settlements in the Jordan Valley, in Gush 'Etziyon and on the Golan Heights.

LIKUD EXECUTIVE DISCUSSES APPLICATION OF LAW IN SETTLEMENTS

TA091247Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction executive has refused to approve a bill proposing that Israeli law be applied to Jewish settlements in the territories. The bill is signed by 19 MK's, including 9 members of the Likud.

Yesterday, the faction executive began discussing the bill on the "Law of Administrative Procedures in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza--5739," and Minister Moshe Nisim immediately criticized the manner in which the nine Likud MK's had moved their proposal.

Minister Nisim said that this is not a parliamentary procedure, adding that if the nine had wanted to express their opinion, they could have asked for a meeting with the prime minister and presented the bill to him. They could even have said that should an autonomy plan be implemented lacking the elements contained in that bill, they would withdraw their support for the autonomy, Nisim said. What they are doing instead, however, is to attempt to force the head of the cabinet by a law about something that has not yet been created. "This is a harmful and wrong way," said Nisim.

Yig'al Kohen (La'am) rejected allegations that the intention of the bill's sponsors was to confront the cabinet with a fait accompli. The intention was merely to make the cabinet relate to the issue and discuss it.

Hadn't the cabinet decided to discuss the autonomy issue prior to any signing of a peace agreement, Minister Nisim asked.

Knesset Members Seidel and Korfu proposed that a discussion of the issue be postponed for a week to enable faction members to study the bill.

Knesset Member P. Grupper said that this bill should not be discussed, either in the faction executive or in the faction plenum, as "this is a delicate question and we cannot behave as the opposition." Eventually the faction executive decided to request a meeting between the Likud faction and the prime minister to discuss the autonomy issue.

BAKHTIAR TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM 13 JAN

LD092249Y Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Senate will have an open session next Saturday and the prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar, will present his government's plans and program.

PARIS INTERVIEWS PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR

LD092210Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1820 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Telephone phone-in interview with Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar conducted by radio correspondents Claude Guillaumin and Yves-Paul Vincent in Paris and Yves Loiseau in Tehran--live]

[Excerpts] [Guillaumin] Good evening, Mr Bakhtiar, good evening, Mr Prime Minister. Thank you for answering live the questions put by our listeners who have been following the frequently dramatic events that have been taking place in your country in the last 6 months and have been wondering what will happen.

Mr Bakhtiar, you have been leading the Iranian Government for 3 days, and the impression one has is that you are a man alone. Your political friends from the National Front, the main opposition party, have refused to collaborate with you. Ayatollah Khomeyni describes your government as a usurper and illegal. The army has remained aloof. Public opinion itself not only does not support you but opposes you. You said yourself when you took office: My task is enormous, and it's not courage but temerity that is needed to accept a mission of this sort; give me a minimum of time to let me try something. Well, as the days go by, Iran seems to fall more and more into an anarchical situation that will demand rapid solutions, but seen from Paris it does not seem as if you have the means for finding solutions. So in the short term, Mr Bakhtiar, are you really a man alone, and what do you intend to do?

[Bakhtiar] My impression is that in the history of the world there have at times been decisive moments in all countries when strong measures need to be taken, and (?one is) often alone in these strong measures. Remember the time--making all due allowance--when General de Gaulle left France on an (?English) plane with disaster and the immense prestige of Marshal Petain facing him?

As far as the National Front is concerned, one does not know [words indistinct]. If people want to remain saints and respected in the (?consequences) that are necessary for a country that is in a state of (?disintegration) [words indistinct] (?it must be said) that they lack courage. [Word indistinct] it is not a question of kings or Ayatollah Khomeyni or of any political party, but of Iran, its unity and its independence--that is the target I am setting out to reach.

So I say that the National Front and the vast majority of the Iranian people are for the independence of the country.

[Loiseau] [Words indistinct] for the departure of the shah, Mr Prime Minister?

[Bakhtiar] The departure of the monarch is something that is very nearly accomplished. It is not a question of knowing if the king will be leaving early or late, but a question of knowing if Iran keeps its integrity, its independence and its unity.

[Guillaumin] Mr Bakhtiar, we shall now be taking questions from our listeners. Here is the first:

[Unidentified listener] Excuse me, but there seem to be two possibilities: Either there is or there isn't a military coup d'etat. If there is one it would really be terribly repressive. In such a case wouldn't your government propose a far better solution? And if there isn't one, which to me doesn't appear very probable, this would prolong the killings more and I do not think that this is good.

[Guillaumin] Mr Bakhtiar, do you fear a military coup d'etat?

[Bakhtiar] I believe that a military coup d'etat, as things are at present, would be the worst thing that could happen. I believe that this government will be the last chance to lead the country toward a nationalist democracy, with socializing trends. Understand by this that the socialism of which I am speaking is not in the Marxist sense of the word.

[Loiseau] Mr Prime Minister, there are statements, for example, by Iranian generals, such as the one by General [name indistinct] who has said: If Mr Bakhtiar does not prevent the shah from leaving, he will be digging his own grave. This is a very harsh statement.

[Bakhtiar] I think that if General [name indistinct] has had the audacity to make such a statement it is first because he is an undisciplined general and then, in my view, if the king wants to go it is not I who will prevent him from so doing, and it is not up to general to give orders to a prime minister and even less to his sovereign.

[Guillaumin] Regarding your relations with the army, Mr Prime Minister, there is something surprising here. When you took office 3 days ago it was understood from what you had said yourself that you had the shah's assurance that he will limit himself to a strictly constitutional role. And yet, for instance, today we heard of the appointment, on his orders, of a new commander of the army, General Badre'i, who was until a few days ago the commander of the Imperial Guard and who is considered a tough man. So, does the shah still have the high command of the army?

[Loiseau] And there is also the resignation of General Jam, and it is said that General Jam resigned because the shah would not agree to the defense minister's having all the powers with regard to the army, Mr Prime Minister.

[Bakhtiar] Let's be accurate. First, on the subject of the assurance which I have received from the army: I find that the army has not moved in a direction contrary to the national interests. I would say also that the appointment of this general or the refusal of anyone to take part in a government is neither a necessary nor sufficient sign of a fault in what is at stake in supporting a government which was created 3 days ago.

[Loiseau] But have you, Mr...

[Bakhtiar] To return, however, to an essential point, when you say that the National Front is against you, there are people who do not have the courage to take responsibility. If they want to take the responsibility, as I said 3 days ago, it is up to them to come; I would give my place to them and [words indistinct] with many blessings. But [words indistinct] absolutely the political opposition, these are people who wish to remain [word indistinct] in the religious sense of the word but [words indistinct] take part in an aim [remainder of sentence indistinct].

[Loiseau] But Mr Bakhtiar are you in a position, as prime minister, to give orders to your principal army generals?

[Bakhtiar] No, sincerely and inevitably.

[Loiseau] Mr Prime Minister, you just referred to the National Front. You say that all the people in the National Front are not behind Mr Karim Sanjabi, but all the same there is a point: It is that the religious movement is the motive force behind everything which is happening in Iran at the moment. Well, this afternoon Ayatollah Khomeyni stated to the world that your government is illegal. Well, how can you remain in power under these conditions?

[Bakhtiar] Listen, I have not mentioned Mr Sanjabi: First of all, do not put words into my mouth. Ayatollah Khomeyni's position has not changed for 2 years. It is not my government which put him on the blacklist. It is a system which [words indistinct] him: (?He is) an extremely respectable religious personality and I also have my political opinions (?which) [words indistinct] 30 years of struggle [words indistinct] a certain amount of credit with my friends and all those people I know. [remainder indistinct]

[Guillaumin] Mr Prime Minister, we shall take another question.

[Vincent] Mr Prime Minister, there is an important political date for you next Thursday since you are going to try to get a vote of confidence from parliament. Well, it seems that this vote of confidence is not at all certain for the following reason, that is, that by and large, it is thought--it is difficult to count them to the man--that there are 25 Majlis deputies who are, let us say, in the opposition, and who consequently are going to vote against you. But there are also other Majlis deputies who, for the most part anyway, are likely to vote against you since they do not support your government, and because, basically they remain completely loyal to the shah.

[Bakhtiar] I am first of all going to tell you that if 25 or 30 or 40 or 50 deputies vote against my government this is a perfectly democratic action, and it must be admitted that you have it in France, in Western Europe and more or less everywhere in democratic countries. So this is not a serious problem.

Regarding the others, I simply wonder why [words indistinct] for the years and years they have put up with absolutely antidemocratic governments and they voted [words indistinct] for the government. Mine is the only government which has asked, in appearing before Parliament, for a vote which is a kind of confidence vote, that is to say, we consulted these gentlemen before I presented myself.

So [words indistinct] I quote on this subject, that is that [words indistinct] these gentlemen may refuse to give their approval, but as a (?real) democrat, I bow before the vote of Parliament.

[Vincent] If you lose, what will happen, Mr Bakhtiar?

[Bakhtiar] Things which are unimaginable will take place, sir.

[Vincent] But can you govern without the support of Parliament?

[Bakhtiar] No, never.

[Vincent] You do not intend doing it?

[Bakhtiar] No.

[Vincent] We shall take another question.

[Unidentified listener] The question I want to ask has been practically asked before now. Here it is: Mr Bakhtiar, on your left you have a political and religious opposition which, as you know, will not be satisfied with a sort of change while continuing the same line. On your right there is an opposition and an army which is beginning to get fed up with the current procrastinations of those in power. Your own party, and I know you think so, is publicly disowning you. How can you in concrete terms, reestablish calm in Iran in such circumstances and how can you reasonably think of succeeding without the interference of Western powers (?and the USSR), as was lately the case with the United States?

[Bakhtiar] I must first of all tell you that the analysis you are making of the situation in Iran is extremely--pardon my saying so--simplistic.

[Loiseau] There is, however, Mr Prime Minister, regarding the Americans, there is at this very moment a U.S. general in Tehran, General Huyser, the deputy commander in chief of the U.S. forces in Europe who is trying to convince the military to support you. There is in this case, indeed, U.S. interference in Iranian internal affairs.

[Bakhtiar] I have never heard anyone talk about this general, and I have never had any contact with the American Embassy. I received congratulations from the French ambassador and a farewell visit by the British ambassador (?who was leaving). Regarding the political parties you mentioned, political parties in Iran are not as clearly and simply composed [words indistinct] this party on the right, and this party on the left, how can you put in the same basket those who support Ayatollah Khomeyni and the communists? [sentence indistinct] Then, on the right you speak of the army. But the army is not a political party. The army must support the government. That is how I deem things to be and that is the condition under which I accepted to govern.

[Unidentified listener] But at the moment, this is not yet the case?

[Bakhtiar] I do not know whether this is the case or not. I do not know what you mean but I simply want to say that the political parties you are talking about...

[Unidentified listener] No, I am speaking of the role of the army. I said that for the time being the army does not support you. Let us say that it is observing some sort of neutrality, that it is waiting to see how things will develop, that it is waiting primarily to see what decisions you are going to make and what you are going to do.

[Guillaumin] Yes, one can even be more precise, Mr Bakhtiar, since it is information which has been supplied--and we are going to give it to you--by special LE MONDE correspondent in Tehran Jean Gueyras, who says--I am giving it to you because you have, perhaps, been informed--according to information from a reliable source, General Badre'i, commander of the imperial guard--Jean Gueyras wrote this 48 hours ago but it is known since that this general has been promoted to commander in chief of the army--and three of his deputies--I do not name them, but Jean Gueyras knows them--are said to have set up a secret group which intends to confront any possible occurrence.

[Bakhtiar] Listen, what you are saying about this general--who is, after all, a rather obscure general--are truly either things which are being told to you [words indistinct] or, at a distance of 5,000 km, you hear tall stories which, naturally, are [remainder of sentence indistinct].

[Guillaumin] He is said to be...

[Bakhtiar] The general has been appointed. (That is the only [word indistinct]). But to make such a fuss out of this I think is too much.

[Unidentified listener] Mr Bakhtiar, my name is [name indistinct]. I am an Iranian (?national) living in Paris and this is my question: The Iranian Constitution of 1906, which was drafted by two of my ancestors, [names indistinct], and which everybody wants to uphold today, says in particular: Iran is a constitutional monarchy and--in Article 50--the sovereign is the commander in chief of the armed forces. What are your views on this subject?

[Bakhtiar] Our constitution was written so that it would be perfectly clear and precise, the admission of a [word indistinct] constitution, as you say, about 72 years ago. As the Belgian king is commander in chief of the Belgian forces or the king or queen of England commands the armed forces of England, this is exactly how I understand things to be in Iran.

I deliberately had his majesty informed that the democratic government that I want to lead will be a government in which the monarch reigns but does not govern. Those are Articles 44 and 45 of our constitution. And he clearly stated when [words indistinct] the public, [words indistinct] reporters, journalists, etc, the ministers he has chosen.

[Unidentified listener] But don't you have the impression, Mr Bakhtiar, that ultimately one of the solutions to the current crisis is the departure of the shah?

[Bakhtiar] But I have told you that the shah himself, the king himself, wants to leave the country and has told me so and repeated it.

[Unidentified listener] Provisionally?

[Loiseau] But there is a difference between abdication and a vacation abroad for a few days.

[Bakhtiar] The shah is not abdicating. I have not asked him to; I did not have the right. But the king is leaving the country to allow the constitution to function in full (?force); to return to the true direction of democracy, which was violated for years.

[Loiseau] Therefore, the complete application of the 1906 constitution?

[Bakhtiar] I am asking for the complete application of this constitution.

[Loiseau] Do you feel, Mr Bakhtiar, that the shah is, at least provisionally, going to leave Iran in the coming days?

[Bakhtiar] Exactly.

[Loiseau] At the moment, Mr Prime Minister, the question of the sequence of events arises. What will happen? Will there be a regency council, for example?

[Bakhtiar] The regency council will necessarily be set up before the shah's departure [words indistinct] and in accordance with the constitution.

[Loiseau] Who will take part in this regency council?

[Bakhtiar] It is not up to me to say, and if I knew I would not say because [words indistinct] five or six or seven members, that depends on certain consultation and concerted action.

[Loiseau] But will you take part in it, for example?

[Bakhtiar] Not necessarily, but in most cases the prime minister takes part in it.

[Unidentified listener] Mr Prime Minister, it has been said that the shah will depart if the situation is calm. There are two sides. First, the street demonstrations, and these have apparently stopped; and the strikes and the (?workers) do not have any intention of resuming work. I have just learned of a communique published today by Iran air that the strike will continue until all of the aspirations of the Iranian people are realized. Now, these aspirations are mainly concerned with the shah's departure. Well then, the shah will not depart as long as the strike continues?

[Bakhtiar] The shah will leave as he himself has said. The strikes didn't start yesterday, they started a long time ago. Apparently, certain people are disguising themselves under the umbrella of the religious leaders and especially of Ayatollah Khomeyni. In fact, it is an enormous conspiracy led by communist agents both from outside and inside to make the country disintegrate, and I shall fight against this disintegration to the very end.

[Unidentified listener] I imagine there is no need to remind Mr Bakhtiar of the suffering of those who oppose the shah. But Mr Bakhtiar has stated that those who have committed torture will be tried. I realize it takes time to organize trials, but, on the other hand, a lot less time is needed to open the gates of the prisons to those who are there for crimes of opinion and who were tortured. So, Mr Bakhtiar, my question is this: Why haven't you announced the release of all these political prisoners yet?

[Guillaumin] Mr Prime Minister, do you envisage the release of the political prisoners?

[Bakhtiar] Yes. Long before my appointment I expressed this. During the 3 days I have spent in office I have first been able to consult parliament before presenting myself as prime minister; second, I have freed newspapers and the press from all censorship; third, I have abolished martial law in one of Iran's large provinces, and this measure will be continued. Political prisoners, provided they are political prisoners and not murderers, will be released within a fortnight at most. Those who have tortured (?or) those who have wasted public funds will be tried either through the ordinary procedures if this is quick enough, or by special tribunal which will very swiftly try these people, a number of whom are already in prison.

[Guillaumin] Mr Bakhtiar, precisely in this connection, what about the case of former Prime Minister Hoveyda. Will Mr Hoveyda be tried in the days ahead?

[Bakhtiar] Certainly.

[Unidentified questioner from Tel Aviv] Mr Prime Minister, the future of minorities in Iran, including the Jewish community, is causing grave concern to the Western world. What will the new government's policy be on this question and what will Iran's new policy be on the Israeli-Arab conflict and President as-Sadat's peace initiative?

[Guillaumin] I presume Mr Bakhtiar has heard you in Tehran. So, Mr Bakhtiar, what is your attitude toward minorities and then Iran's stance in the Israeli-Arab conflict?

[Bakhtiar] Our constitution is perfectly clear on religious minorities. We respect the Christian, Jew and Shi'ite. The constitution is clear and my government has no right whatever, no influence whatever. The government will respect first of all the constitution, and formal guarantees have been given in the constitution to these minorities you speak about. The conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis is a question which they must resolve between themselves. We hope, as a Muslim country, that peace will reign as speedily as possible in this region and that the Arab lands will be returned to them.

[Unidentified questioner] I have just heard a listener who has expressed the view of all French people, that is to say that the ayatollah is of the leftist opposition. This is something I just can't bear. I would like the prime minister to explain to us that Islam and Marxism are two things that are totally opposite. I was reading in an Italian weekly the other day a long interview by the ayatollah in which he himself was scarcely reproaching the shah for his tortures. He reproached him for his liberalization, he reproached him for having freed women from the veil, he even reproached him for the universities; he disputes that the media in France will tell the truth. This is the Middle Ages. I should like him to tell us what he thinks of this association which is always made in France--Islam equals Marxism, Islam equals progress.

The ayatollah is the left. No, for me the ayatollah is the same thing as M. Lefevre. It is the same thing. I would like him to give his opinion on this subject.

[Guillaumin] Your reply to the question asked by our listeners.

[Bakhtiar] I have not understood all the details very well but the [passage indistinct].

[Guillaumin] Mr Prime Minister, may I ask you to speak louder, please.

[Unidentified questioner] I would like to ask the following question: Could events occur in Iran, when power would not be controlled by the ayatollahs? Can the country slide into (?the grim fate of the Libyan or Algerian kind)?

[Guillaumin] Mr Bakhtiar, is it possible that you could govern without the religious leaders?

[Bakhtiar] The Iranian Constitution is unequivocal on this subject. No law, no disposition can be voted in a valid way and executed if this law is in contradiction with the laws of Islam.

[Guillaumin] But, Mr Prime Minister, what attitude do you intend to adopt toward Ayatollah Khomeyni when he condemns your government? I said earlier that he described it as a usurper and illegal.

[Bakhtiar] Sir, this is not the first time that the ayatollah has condemned a government in Iran and it (will not be the last time either). But I must tell you one thing: We have enormous respect for this great religious leader and I would never take the liberty of opposing what he said. I am doing my best for Iran. If he likes to reproach me on the political level [words indistinct] on the subject of the duty of the citizen, the Muslim, I would of course bow to that, but for 30 years I have followed total nationalism in accordance with the interests of the country and within the framework of religion. I wonder how a great personality like the ayatollah who unfortunately during the first 2 or 3 days of my government [remainder of sentence indistinct].

[Unidentified listener] Mr Bakhtiar, does your apparent respect for the Ayatollah Khomeyni lead you to subscribe to the plan for an Islamic republic which he has been recommending for a long time?

[Bakhtiar] On the political level my only concern is the National Front and [words indistinct].

[Loiseau] Mr Prime Minister, you speak of the role of the communists. Is it true that 200 people were arrested today while carrying weapons--it is said that they were Afghans. And I think that in a statement you made an attack on the communists saying that it was they who were responsible for the disturbances. Can you say that communists were arrested today in Tehran?

[Bakhtiar] Unfortunately, the lengthy borders which separate us from a certain number of countries have favored the infiltration of a certain number of undesirables who for the most part are communists. Today in the very center of Tehran there were almost 500 Afghans taking part--more or less armed--in disturbances. I gave strict orders to arrest them but not to escort them to the border--that would be too good.

[Guillaumin] One last question:

[Unidentified listener] I should like to ask my question of Mr Bakhtiar in his capacity as prime minister. I should like to know how he views the attitude of the French authorities toward Ayatollah Khomeyni, the very fact that they seem to favor him a little. [What do you think of] his calling for civil war in Iran from French territory?

[Bakhtiar] France has always been a land of asylum for political opinions and political personalities. Whoever the person is I must tell you that it is an honor for France to keep this tradition and that Ayatollah Khomeyni's stay in France is, in my opinion, not a contradiction of this great tradition. And I have continued to express the desire and said what everyone accepts very easily that in a legal, democratic and progressive government, the presence of Ayatollah Khomeyni is still desirable.

[Unidentified listener] Do you think you will ask Ayatollah Khomeyni to return to Iran?

[Bakhtiar] Everyone asks this question. It is up to him to make the decision.

[Unidentified listener] But Ayatollah Khomeyni has said that he will not return to Iran while the shah is there. So if the shah leaves in the coming days this could be the beginning of a solution.

[Bakhtiar] I think so too.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON SHAH'S DECREE ON DONATING ASSETS

LD092039Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In an interview with reporters today, Mr Mir Seyyed Ahmad Amani, deputy custodian of the Pahlavi Foundation, described the foundation's past activities and its future program. He also rejected a list recently published on the educational allowance to Iranian students abroad.

The deputy custodian of the Pahlavi foundation added: The Pahlavi Foundation is a very large charitable organization with substantial capital and income. Under a decree issued in Mehr 1340 [17 years ago], it is recognized as the Pahlavi family endowment. Its income is devoted to the religious, medical, educational and social affairs of those in need. With regard to aid to religious affairs he said: In respecting Islamic principles the foundation has provided aid for the publication of Islamic books and for religious training, as well as for Islamic missionary work, particularly in foreign countries.

The Pahlavi Foundation deputy custodian then referred to a decree issued by the shahanshah aryamehr regarding the transfer of assets of the Pahlavi family, saying that under this decree of the shahanshah all private assets, as listed, have been placed at the disposal of the foundation for further income and for extending the disbursements in accordance with the decree relating to the Pahlavi family endowment.

He also said that in accordance with the expressed wishes of his imperial majesty, two basic matters, namely the decentralization of executive activities from Tehran and the handing over of the people's affairs to the people themselves in the provinces, will be fully observed. For this reason, assistance to religious, health and social concerns and the needy will henceforth be handled in the provinces by local trustees. The selection of eligible students from among the deserving and the needy will also be decided by universities and made public with nothing being concealed from the public.

The text of the decree is as follows: In view of the heart-felt and inward belief we have held since our accession to the throne in satisfying the maker and serving humanity, we have, whenever appropriate, manifested our belevolent intentions in improving and promoting the welfare of the nation and the progress and advancement of various aspects of the country's life by expending and devoting our own assets. Now, in order to bring to its full perfection our generosity and benevolence, in accordance with this decree we hand over all our personal assets, as per the signed list, including related organization and personnel, to the Pahlavi Foundation in order to increase its income and expand its disbursement as laid down in the decree relating to the Pahlavi family endowment dated Mehr 1340, so that whatever needs to be sold may be sold and the remainder exploited, and so that the proceeds from the sale of assets and other incomes may be invested with incomes to be disbursed, as laid down by the said decree, along with other incomes from the endowment, on the extent of which the necessary measures may be adopted.

Niavaran Palace, dated 25 December 1978.

SHAH APPOINTS NEW COMMANDER OF IRANIAN GROUND FORCES

LD091550Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] On orders from the shahanshah aryamehr, Lt Gen 'Abdol 'Ali Badre'i has been appointed commander of the imperial ground forces effective today, 9 January 1979, and he is taking office immediately.

KHOMEYNI SAYS HE WILL NOT HOLD GOVERNMENT POSITION

TA091704Y Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 9 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] Paris, Jan 9 (AFP)--Ayatollah Khomeyni, Paris-exiled leader of the Iranian Shi'ite Muslim opposition, will be neither president of Iran if the shah departs nor hold any governmental position, he was quoted today as telling the Paris daily LE MONDE.

"I shall content myself, as in the past, with being the nation's guide," he said.

If the shah left Iran, or if the ayatollah's followers succeeded in overcoming the present regime, a "committee" would be set up to carry out consultations with a view to establishing an assembly, he said.

This committee, he said, "will be composed of (Muslim) believers."

"The papers," he added, "have already expressed their determination to have an Islamic government. But if a referendum is necessary on the legal level, we shall not refuse it."

He described Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar's government as illegal because "it was appointed by the shah's regime" and because the two [word indistinct] have no popular base and the people did not freely elect the deputies from whom the government has asked a vote of confidence."

The ayatollah said that a military coup "is possible" if Mr Bakhtiar failed.

"It would be a final brickbat thrown at the people by the regime," he said. "We shall stand fast, for the people are determined to fight until the installation of an Islamic government. Any other regime would clash with them."

BAKHTIAR DENIES FEREDUN JAM REFUSED DEFENSE PORTFOLIO

TA091711Y Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 9 Jan TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9 (AFP)--Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar today denied that General Feredun Jam had refused the defence portfolio in his new government.

In a communique published in the ETTELAAT newspaper, Mr Bakhtiar discounted reports that the general decided yesterday against returning from abroad to take up the post.

He was said to have reversed his Saturday decision to accept it on grounds of his son's ill health and because he was unwilling to accept the responsibilities the job entailed in Iran's current crisis.

But Mr Bakhtiar said it was unlikely that the general would back down. His communique said he had spoken with the general and hoped he would join the cabinet.

GENERAL AZHARI LEAVES IRAN FOR HEART OPERATION

LD092037Y Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The former prime minister, General Gholam Reza Azhari, has left the country to undergo a heart operation. A (?court) official said the general's health is in a crucial state and the operation is essential to his well-being.

200 ARMED AFGHANS ARRESTED IN TEHRAN FOR DISTURBANCES

LD091732Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tehran's evening paper ETTELAAT today devoted one of its most important political headlines to the arrest of 200 armed Afghan citizens in Tehran.

Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the prime minister, in contact with national Iranian radio and television tonight, stressed in this regard that any foreigner engaged in causing disturbances and disruption in Iran or ignoring the country's law and order and territorial borders will be prosecuted and punished in this country in accordance with Iranian laws.

TEHRAN REPORTS END OF MARTIAL LAW IN SHIRAZ, DEMONSTRATIONS

LD091230Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] On the first day of the abolition of martial law in Shiraz various groups staged massive demonstrations and peaceful marches. In a communique issued by the Fars Province governor general on the abolition of martial law, the citizens of Shiraz have been asked to endeavor to maintain calm and stability and not allow adventure-seeking individuals to violate the rights of the people. According to reports, demonstrations in the form of peaceful marches were staged this morning in the city of Taft. In Jiroft, too, a group of people assembled in the courtyard of the city's construction organization and after hearing several speeches, staged a peaceful march.

A group of people gathered at the Yasuj sports stadium this morning and later held a peaceful march in the snow and rain. After this march, the demonstrators assembled in the Vali'ahd Mosque of Yasuj and listened to speeches.

A peaceful march took place in the city of Maragheh yesterday afternoon. Groups from the nearby villages also took part. There were scattered demonstrations in Behbahan yesterday. At these demonstrations, which lasted until yesterday evening, nine people were wounded.

Demonstrations and marches were staged in Aga Jari yesterday; the marches took a violent turn in Omidiyeh-e San'ati and a number of the demonstrators attacked a club, a cinema, and a school and several other buildings and after plundering them, destroyed them and set them on fire. According to our correspondent's report, these acts were strongly condemned by the ulema of Aga Jari. Similarly, a group attacked and smashed windows at the police station and two bank branches in Aga Jari yesterday afternoon. The demonstrators were dispersed when the electricity was cut off and no clashes took place whatsoever.

In Tusangan too, demonstrators staged a march from the mosque last night and when they attempted to attack several people were wounded. The latest report says that according to a statement by the president of the Tusangan city court of justice four people were killed and nine were wounded in this clash.

Our correspondent from Reza'i'yeh reports that in yesterday's demonstrations in Piranshahr, one person was killed and four others were wounded. During this violent demonstration, the city's court of justice and all of its files were burned.

Peaceful demonstrations also took place yesterday in several villages in Gilan, and in the cities of Ilam, Mehran and the district of Malekshan. A group of demonstrators last night set fire to the Jiroft town hall, but there were no clashes in last night's demonstrations in Jiroft.

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IRAN

226 PERSONS CONVICTED BY MILITARY COURTS PARDONED

LD101100Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The judiciary department of the imperial armed forces has announced in a statement that, on orders from the shahanshah aryamehr, 226 persons convicted by military courts for various offenses and held in the police department prison in the capital have been pardoned. Orders have been communicated to prison offices to release the prisoners immediately.

The question of pardoning or repleiving other convicts is under review.

BEHAVIOR OF CLANDESTINE PERSIAN RADIO REPORTED

TA092035 [Editorial Report TA] Radio of the Patriots [Clandestine] in Persian at 1615 GMT was monitored with very poor to unmonitorable reception on both 8 and 9 January. On 8 January reports about demonstrations and events in Iran on 7 January were broadcast from 1615 to 1623 GMT. On the basis of isolated words and phrases the announcer was apparently saying that the establishment of a military government in Iran was essential for the preservation of the regime; that the regime is using its military power just to give the administration a few more days of life; that the approval of Ayatollah Khomeyni is essential, and that the shah cannot act without it. American policy was also mentioned with remarks that the U.S. Navy is sailing into the southern waters and that the plan of imperialism is to protect the shah to the very last moment.

On 9 January only the final minutes of the 30-minute program are audible, reception improved to very poor about 1630 GMT as the announcer discussed the conditions in Iran and the economic and political reasons for mass dissatisfaction. At the end of his analysis the announcer said: "Dear listeners, in tomorrow's talk we will continue our (?discussion of the causes) of the economic and political crisis of the regime, and of the movement of the masses, which are (?in the midst) of revolution."

Following the completion of the Radio of the Patriots broadcast, at 1649 GMT on 9 January, the station identified itself as the radio of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and subsequent programming was in Arabic.

INA REPORTS ON MILITARY COUP PLANNED FOR 30 DEC

JN091803Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 9 Jan--It was revealed here today that a number of senior Iranian Army officers were preparing for a military coup on Saturday, 30 December. There was a power outage that night, lasting 9 and 1/2 hours. The newspaper TEHRAN JOURNAL reports that a meeting of senior army officers with the shah on that day to express their grave anxiety over the situation in Iran confirms this. On that night, and during the power outage, there was intense military vehicle activity during the curfew hours. Citing reliable sources, TEHRAN JOURNAL says that Gen Robert Huyer, commander of the U.S. Air Force [title as received], was in Iran to reassure the Iranian generals that the Americans support Bakhtiar's government and do not support any coup.

IRANIAN CURRENCY DEVALUED 10 JANUARY

TA100923Y Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 10 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10 (AFP)--The Iranian rial was today devalued by about 9 percent against the U.S. dollar, by the National Melli Bank for the purpose of current account exchange operations, banking circles here announced.

However, the bank was to maintain the parity for all transactions involving Iranian exports, the sources said.

It is the first time the rial has been moved out of line with the U.S. dollar.

According to informed sources Iranian nationals have transferred some 10 billion dollars into foreign banks.

BAZARGAN CALLS ON RAIL WORKERS TO ASSIST OIL WORKERS

LD091554Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A statement was issued today by Mr Mehdi Bazargan [leader of Iran's Freedom Party, one of the parties in the National Front Coalition] and the delegation accompanying him. The statement calls on railroad workers to give the necessary cooperation to oil workers in transporting and delivering oil.

LONDON PAPER CITES BAKHTIAR ON REVISION OF ARMS CONTRACTS

LD091747Y London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 9 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Report 'by our foreign staff': "Iran To Revise Defence Contracts Worth \$10 Billion"]

[Text] Iran is to revise all its military contracts, worth an estimated \$10 billion, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the new prime minister, told the FINANCIAL TIMES yesterday.

Dr Bakhtiar said that Iran would try to respect contracts already signed unless "completely contrary to the interests of our country."

The biggest casualties of the expected cutback on arms purchases would be the United States and Britain. The United States has been Iran's biggest military supplier for more than 20 years, particularly of military aircraft.

Aircraft on order from the United States include 160 F-16s, worth \$3.2 billion; F-14s; and F-4Es. The Boeing 707-based E3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), costing \$1.2 billion, is another almost certain cancellation, as are the four Spruance-class destroyers ordered from the Ingalls Shipbuilding division of Litton systems.

Britain has at risk defence contracts worth more than \$3 billion. They include orders for Chieftain tanks with Chobham armour; tracked Rapier missiles, and a share in the giant ordnance and tank spares complex under construction at Esfahan. Work there has been suspended.

Dr Bakhtiar repeated a statement that Iran would no longer act as "the policeman of the gulf." He refused to be drawn on the shah's future beyond saying that the constitution provided for a monarch.

The remaining 200 political prisoners, he said, would be freed today or tomorrow, and the law would be changed to allow prosecution of former officials detained under martial law.

For reasons of state, some executions were likely in the near future, he said.

Meanwhile, demonstrations and protests against Dr Bakhtiar's government have emphasized the overall lack of support for his moderate administration.

Demonstrations occurred in most Iranian cities to mark the day of mourning called for by the Ayatollah Khomejni, the exiled religious leader, in Paris. As the leader of resistance to the shah, the ayatollah has condemned the new administration.

Tehran Report

LD091836Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In an interview with the FINANCIAL TIMES, which was published on the paper's frontpage today, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the prime minister, said Iran intends to revise all contracts relating to arms purchases. The Iranian prime minister said that in military planning priority will be given only to defending the country's borders. He rejected the Nixon doctrine on strengthening Third World countries to defend neighboring regions and said Iran will never assume the role of the Persian Gulf policeman.

Dr Bakhtiar added that the shahanshah will not leave the country before the government's program is confirmed by parliament. He said an eight-member regency council will be formed soon and that this council will only be a symbol of the monarchy, with the real power henceforth being in the hands of the government.

Dr Bakhtiar said in this interview that he needs 2 months to deal with resolving economic problems, releasing political prisoners and fighting corruption. He added that 200 more political prisoners will be released by today or tomorrow and that his government will not hesitate for a moment to prosecute former officials accused of corruption.

Dr Bakhtiar said that elections will be held within the next 6 months, but that if his government fails there will be the possibility of a rightwing coup d'etat similar to that which occurred in Chile.

In his interview with the FINANCIAL TIMES the Iranian prime minister also said that the sale of oil to South Africa and Israel will be stopped.

Regarding the cancellation of weapons contracts, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar explained that he has asked the minister of economic affairs and finance to prepare a list of Iranian arms purchases so that they may be revised.

SANJABI CALLS FOR 'FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE' IN RULING SYSTEM

LD091245Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Dr Karim Sanjabi, the National Front leader, in a radio, television and press conference today answered questions by media representatives, international news agencies and Iranian and foreign newspapers and magazines.

After some introductory remarks about the National Front's political principles and program with reference to the main characteristics of the nation's revolution and the nature of the ruling system, Dr Sanjabi said: The National Front specified the main framework of its political program in its 5 November 1978 statement. After repeating the principles in the statement, he said: We repeat today that unless these principles are observed and implemented there will be no political solution to Iran's current crisis.

Dr Sanjabi reviewed the situation in the country over the past 25 years. He hailed the extent and cohesion of the nation's current revolution in progress in our homeland and said: What is taking place in Iran is a monumental and far-reaching; a true revolution which emanates only from the inner core of the nation itself. Once again the Almighty's kindness and the mighty hand of history have selected our homeland to achieve one of the most fruitful of its constructive experiences. As an Iranian I feel proud that at this time I am among a people who are able to bring about such a momentous change.

Dr Sanjabi also referred to the people's demands and said: The people want the basis of power changed. In accordance with the constitution they want the transfer of sovereignty to the nation. The people want for once and for all to operate in the country's political arena. They do not want others to make decisions for them. They do not want to see foreigners presenting the solutions they have concocted in their own minds as the people's own solution. The Iranian people want the country's destiny determined in their own homeland, not in Washington, London or Moscow.

He also described the reasons for his opposition to the present government. Praising the Iranian journalists' strike and wishing them success in making available accurate news reports--fully observing the principles of freedom of expression and thought, and truthfully reflecting the facts in the country--he expressed his readiness to answer correspondents' questions. The correspondents put their questions to him.

With regard to the type of ruling system the National Front wants, Dr Sanjabi said: What we want is a democracy and a true national sovereignty. The form and shape of the government is not important, for there may exist many dictatorial republics and as many liberal and democratic monarchies, the examples of which we can see in Western Europe. The constitutional order has been trampled underfoot repeatedly and persistently over the past 25 years. The people can no longer trust the present ruling system. At any rate, we support a fundamental change in the ruling system. The Iranian nation is currently in a state of rebellion and revolution. Universities and high schools are closed; government offices are on strike; the country's affairs have been paralyzed. The people want fundamental and basic changes. The people must be able to feel that their uprising has come to fruition. There should be conditions enabling the people to go back to their work and to their studies.

Asked about the ways to bring about fundamental changes, Dr Sanjabi said: There should be a government in power that the general public would accept, a government able to reactivate the country's normal affairs, and to prepare the necessary condition for the general elections. The people should first elect their representatives and then proceed with other issues.

During the press conference, which lasted more than 2 hours, Dr Sanjabi described the country's various political issues and the National Front's views on every issue.

BBC: KHOMEYNI DENIES RECEIVING FOREIGN AID

LD092236Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 2100 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[BBC TV reporter John Simpson's interview with Ayatollah Khomeyni at the ayatollah's residence near Paris--date not specified; recorded]

[Text] The shah's enemy-in-chief is waiting here for the moment to return and form a government of his own. He told me today that he expected this would happen before the end of the year. The ayatollah's position as the dominant religious leader of Iran together with his out-and-out opposition to any solution but his own has made him the single most influential man inside the country. There is a constant stream of supporters making the pilgrimage from Iran to visit him in his exile. His staff contains assistants who perform every function from security to maintaining the flow of information from Iran and insuring that his message is relayed as widely as possible to people in Iran itself. Some students who made the trip from London in the past few days complained that they were turned away at Heathrow Airport and forced to return to France when they tried to get back into Britain. Khomeyni himself does not suffer too much from the attentions of the French police. They are there entirely to protect him and his stay in France has been extended indefinitely from the end of next week.

It has been alleged that there are communists among the members of the ayatollah's retinue and that he gets help from Libya and the Palestinians. He vigorously rejects this.

[Khomeyni in Persian fading into English translation] No, absolutely no. This is propaganda by the shah and his agents. We have never requested any help and assistance from any governments and we will not do that. We rely only on our own people, our nation. We do not need any foreign government's assistance and help. And those who are in contact with me and related with me are from the very devoted Muslims. They are not affiliated with any parties, such as the Communist Party. They are not communists. They are not Marxists and this is propaganda again by the shah and his henchmen in order to discredit our movement.

TURKISH PAPER INTERVIEWS AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI

NC091533Y Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 8 Jan 79 p 6 NC

[By Haluk Tasiloglu]

[Excerpts] Paris--Ayatollah Khomeyni, the most powerful of the five living Shi'ite leaders, the man who has shaken the Iranian throne from its foundations and who can order hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in the face of indiscriminate firing by the shah's soldiers, has given an interview to TERCUMAN. Khomeyni has said: "The despot will be overthrown and an Islamic republic will be established."

Asked about the kind of regime he would like to see in Iran, Khomeyni said: "The despot will be overthrown and a republic will be established instead. Everything will be decided by the people's votes. The constitution of our republic will be based upon Islamic philosophy. Those aspects of the existing constitution--which dates back to 1905--that do not conform with Islamic principles will be changed. The other parts of the constitution will remain unchanged. If there are deficiencies experts will correct them.

Khomeyni described as "deliberate lies" reports to the effect that he is cooperating with leftists. He also denied that (?Sadik Advari), one of his close advisers who is of Syrian origin, has close relations with the Italian and French Communist Parties. Khomeyni said: "We are in very close contact with (?Advari). But I cannot accept that he is a communist. These are empty and unjustified slanders."

Stating that he knows the superpowers are against Iran's struggle, Khomeyni said:

"We will not permit any country to interfere in our country's internal affairs. If the superpowers establish good relations with us, we will accord them similar treatment in the future. We can ask our friends for help for the development of our country. We are prepared to cooperate with anybody, but we will not let anybody take our rights away."

The 78-year-old tall, dour Shi'ite leader denied rumors that he opposes the shah's land reforms. He said: "One of the highest-priority problems of the Islamic republic to be established will be the land reform issue. This issue will be dealt with in the plan the government will prepare. Those working the land will receive total benefit from their produce. Also, the social rights of farmers and workers will be guaranteed."

Khomeyni said he wants to establish good relations with Turkey--where he spent his first year in exile--based primarily on the principles of Islamic brotherhood.

Khomeyni said: "We see Turkey as a friendly as well as a brotherly country." He added: "Our Turkish brothers will support us in our just cause. We will achieve success soon. Ours is the struggle of not only the Iranian people but the whole Islamic world. That is why we will win. I repeat: Victory is close."

We also talked to Ayatollah Montazeri in Khomeyni's mansion in Paris. Ayatollah Montazeri was in Paris for treatment after staying in jail and being tortured for opposing the regime.

In his statement Montazeri said that the shah is finished, and he added: "The people do not want him, and the whole world sees this."

Montazeri said that the shah's future cannot be decided by himself or any other group. He said: "The people constitute the only power. The people will decide whether the shah should stay as a symbol."

Montazeri stated that the current Islamic movement in Iran is, in some aspects, similar to the struggle waged in 1899 against the tobacco monopolies. He said: "However, this time our movement is bigger and stronger, because it is based on the Iranian people. We will hold a referendum as soon as we achieve success; then we will go to elections. True representatives, elected by the people, will go to the parliament. We expect the Muslim Turkish people to support us."

AFGHANISTAN

KARACHI: AFGHANISTAN HAS RECOGNIZED CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT

BK091722Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Jan BK

[Text] Vietnam, Laos and Afghanistan have announced their recognition of the People's Revolutionary Council as Kampuchea's legal government. At the same time president, Brezhnev is quoted by Moscow Radio to have extended his country's support to the struggle of the United Front for National Salvation of the Kampuchean People.

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT ORDERS RELEASE OF 105 POLITICAL PRISONERS

BK091726Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The government has ordered the immediate release of 105 more political prisoners from different jails in the country. This is in fulfillment of the president's pledge to the nation to release political prisoners expeditiously.

It may be recalled that the government has already released another 83 detainees on the 30th of last month.

AWAMI LEAGUE, MALEK GROUP, WILL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

BK091725Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Awami League, Malek group, will participate in the coming parliamentary elections to be held on the 18th of next month.

The party chief, Mr Abdul Malek Ukil, announced this at a news conference in Dacca tonight. He said his party will nominate candidates in all the 300 constituencies. The party's parliamentary board will accept applications for nominations from Friday and will announce the list of party candidates on Sunday.

INDIA

INDIA REPORTEDLY WARNS U.S. AGAINST GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY

OW100729Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 10 Jan 79 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Jan (KYODO)--India has warned the United States that gunboat diplomacy in the wake of the troubled situation in Iran would be counterproductive, the independent national newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said that U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi Robert Goheen was told by "the appropriates" that the task force led by the USS Constellation, with possible orders to enter the Indian Ocean, would only aggravate the situation.

The report claimed that the subsequent U.S. decision and restraint to keep its fleet from moving into the Indian Ocean possibly came after the Indian protest and following "discussions not only with Indians but evidently with other U.S. friends."

GDR'S HONECKER ADDRESSES DELHI RALLY ON 9 JANUARY

LD091836Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1457 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Delhi (ADN correspondent)--"Our friendship has grown over the centuries, has been tested by history and is stable. When we began to develop relations between the GDR and the Republic of India almost 25 years ago, we were able to build on valuable humanistic traditions." This was underlined by Erich Honecker at a rally in Delhi on Tuesday. Erich Honecker went on to say that Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi were also well known to the GDR people as pioneers of a new India. "India's heroic liberation struggle has always been followed with respect and sympathy by the progressive German forces, above all by the representatives of the working class. The great sons of the German people, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, passionately welcomed the historic popular rising in the middle of the last century against British colonial domination. In our time India has taken impressive steps toward the revival of this 'great and interesting country,' as Karl Marx called it."

It is only natural for the GDR, the first socialist state on German soil, to have sincere sympathy for the new India, Erich Honecker went on to say. "We have from the start followed with respect and interest your country's untiring efforts to resolve the massive problems with which it has been left by centuries of imperialist colonial domination. The path of independent India, which occupies a respected place in the international arena, has constantly held a leading position. We are sure that your people will add fresh and important successes."

In the GDR the people have by hard work removed the ruins of war and created a socialist state. Under the leadership of proven antifascists and genuine democrats, fascism and militarism have been eradicated. In the almost 30 years of its existence fundamental social changes have taken place in the GDR. "The life of the people has changed for the better as never before in our history."

Owing to the creative force of its workers, the GDR is one of the 10 strongest industrial nations, Erich Honecker continued. "The most important result of socialist development in our country is the change in the people themselves. They maintain friendship with all peoples and practice solidarity with the fighters for freedom and independence throughout the world."

Three decades of successful development have consolidated the proof that its founding was a turning point in the history of the people and the history of Europe. "Our country has allied itself fraternally with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community. This is a decisive basis for its good progress."

Erich Honecker explained the GDR's consistent policy of peace: "Stable peace is indispensable for all we do in the economy, in science and culture, for a life for the people in social security. Never before have the opportunities for such a peace in the world arena been as great as they are today. But at the same time, grave dangers still exist because aggressive forces are greatly stepping up the arms race. They are intensifying their policy of aggression and oppression with the aim of subjecting independent states and peoples to their rule once again."

"Today the peoples more urgently than ever face the need to avert the threat posed by a new world war, by an atomic inferno and to exert all their strength so that peace is upheld on a long term basis," Erich Honecker continued. This requires above all an end to the arms race and a practical start on disarmament. The GDR people are struggling for this together with all peace-loving people in the world, regardless of their ideology, nationality or skin color; and in this struggle they are very closely linked with their Indian friends. "The Warsaw Pact states, in the Moscow declaration of their Political Consultative Committee, once again submitted specific proposals for securing peace, continued international detente, ending the arms race and disarmament. These proposals offer feasible courses. They are realistic and constructive."

During the talks with India's leading representatives and in all meetings with its people, the wish to preserve peace has been clear. The joint efforts of the two countries for detente and security are a great contribution toward understanding and cooperation between the peoples, regardless of the different social systems.

"The GDR is watching with great admiration India's important achievements as a nonaligned country in defending peoples' national independence and maintaining peaceful, equal relations between the countries of Asia and throughout the entire world," Erich Honecker stated. "In its relations with the nationally liberated states, our republic has always been guided by the basic common interests in the struggle for peace, detente and social progress, against imperialism, colonialism and racism." The GDR will always be found alongside those peoples who are defending themselves against oppression and blackmail by imperialist forces and their supporters.

Owing to the active efforts of India and other Southeast Asian countries, the process of detente and normalization has made considerable progress in this region in the last few years. "We welcome the efforts of all states of South and Southeast Asia to secure and respect national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as noninterference in the internal affairs of other states."

As a result of the historic victory of the peoples of Indochina in their selfless struggle against colonialism and imperialist aggression, the defenders of the policy of peace, the forces of national and social liberation on the largest continent of the earth have been strengthened," Erich Honecker stated. The GDR has not only stood in firm solidarity by the side of the valiant Vietnamese people during the time of the war of liberation; it has also supported Vietnam in its national reconstruction, in its initiatives to create an atmosphere of peace, stability and good neighborliness in Southeast Asia. The friendship treaty signed between the two countries in 1977 has laid a firm foundation for this.

The GDR people heard with great satisfaction and pleasure of the conclusion of the friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and Vietnam. "This important document, like our previous year's visits to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of the Philippines and the DPRK, is in the interest of all those forces in Asia and the whole world which advocate peace, detente and mutually fruitful cooperation among all peoples and states.

"The results of our visit justify the statement," Erich Honecker remarked in conclusion, "that a solid bridge of friendship and cooperation has been built between the GDR and the Indian Republic, spanning oceans and frontiers. Let us therefore work jointly toward steadily consolidating and developing these friendly relations further in the service of world peace."

Honecker, Reddy Banquet Toasts

LD092343Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1801 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Berlin--Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, gave a banquet on Tuesday evening in Delhi in honor of N.S. Reddy, president of the Indian Republic. The two heads of state stressed in toasts that the friendly relations which are advantageous to both peoples are further strengthened by the new agreements between the GDR and India.

Other guests, together with President Reddy, were Prime Minister Morarji Desai and ministers of his cabinet as well as leading politicians and representatives of social bodies. Also present at the dinner were the important figures of Erich Honecker's official entourage.

In his toast, Erich Honecker stressed that the GDR and India largely agreed in their views with regard to relations between the two states and on basic issues of international policy. He stated that agreement on extending relations as well as the documents signed for this purpose will promote cooperation to their mutual advantage. His visit will introduce a new, higher phase of cooperation and friendship.

Erich Honecker expressed his satisfaction at the fact that both states and peoples are united in the desire to oppose the sinister work of forces hostile to detente, whose aim is to throw the world again into the misfortune of a devastating war. The traditionally friendly relations between the GDR and India, Erich Honecker stated, will help to strengthen those forces which are resolute and capable of protecting mankind from such a catastrophe.

Erich Honecker's words were: "It gives us great satisfaction that, following the valuable exchange of views which we held on relations between our two states and on basic issues of international policy, we have been able to establish wide agreement in our views. Friendship and all-round cooperation between the GDR and the Republic of India are undoubtedly developing on a solid basis.

"The agreement which we reached on the expansion of relations and the documents signed for this purpose will promote cooperation to the mutual advantage of our states. Thus, our visit to the Indian Republic will not only be an eloquent expression of the tradition-filled history of friendly relations between our peoples and states but will also introduce a new, higher phase of cooperation and close friendship."

"A few days before your national day, I would like to stress with special pleasure how greatly we have been impressed by the basic changes in your country since you achieved independence," Erich Honecker said. "We know what enormous efforts are necessary to overcome the consequences of centuries of colonial oppression. With all our hearts we wish the industrious Indian people continued great successes."

Erich Honecker then turned to the preparations for the GDR's 30th anniversary and continued:

"Last year brought us a good step forward on the road to shaping the advanced socialist society. It was a good year for our people. All branches of industry overfulfilled or fulfilled their plan. Unfortunately, the inclemencies of the winter weather at the turn of the year have done us a lot of damage. The GDR workers want to make outstanding efforts to overcome the setbacks which have resulted in the economy and exceed the 1979 plan. Thus, regardless of the changed situation, we will consistently fulfill our government program aimed at growth, well-being and stability."

Erich Honecker expressed his pleasure at the fact "that our two peoples and states are united by the will to oppose the sinister work of forces hostile to detente whose aim is to throw the world once again into the misfortune of a devastating war. The traditionally friendly relations between the GDR and the Indian Republic will, I am sure, help to strengthen those forces which are resolute and capable of protecting mankind from such a catastrophe. We, too, will do all in our power to strengthen the cooperation between our peoples and states which united peoples and consolidates peace."

In conclusion, Erich Honecker stated: "The GDR people would deem themselves fortunate to be able to reciprocate the proofs of friendship which have been shown to us in your country."

In his toast, the Indian president pointed out that fruitful discussions have been held during the last 2 days. "I am sure you will agree with me when I say that these talks have been held with the cordiality and warmth characteristic of our relations. Your visit has been of great value to us as we have learned, on the one hand, your views on the present political situation in the world and, on the other, we have been able to share our thoughts and interests with you," N.S. Reddy said.

"We are deeply aware of the fact that the GDR is not only a friend in good times. Our mutual efforts for an international climate of peace and understanding is a binding factor in our relations. We have once again emphasized and endorsed such factors promoting our friendship and cooperation and tried to eliminate those which separate and divide peoples and countries."

"We share your opinion that some positive developments in world affairs have taken place in recent years. The process of detente in Europe is promising to heal the wounds of the last world war. Hopes are cherished for cooperation and understanding in your continent. The two great powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are in the process of conducting a constructive dialog, wishing to reduce their arsenals of nuclear arms. This is welcome [words indistinct]."

N.S. Reddy stated that during the past few years some positive developments could be seen in world policy, and he drew attention to the process of detente in Europe.

"We must continue to aim for worldwide and total disarmament," he continued. "Detente should also be felt in other parts of the world. In our world we are all linked with each other and we must not forget, therefore, that we can only be free of the danger of a conflict when every single potential source of tension has been removed."

In India's view, detente should be strengthened and promoted and international tensions should be reduced. India therefore hopes that "the whole of Asia, which has such enormously great and complex political and economic problems to overcome, will have a secured peace based on the principles of coexistence between independent states.

"This, too, will facilitate the advantageous economic cooperation between the countries. This task is not easy, however. The Asian peoples, including our own, demand the elimination of poverty and the fulfillment of their justified expectations for useful work and a meaningful, better life."

"We believe that internal developments are issues of each country itself and relations with other countries should be developed on the basis of mutual respect and good will for cooperation," N.S. Reddy continued. "We are pleased that in this respect we have been granted some success in South Asia. We are, however, very anxious that these same efforts regarding stability and cooperation be developed on a broad basis in Southeast Asia too."

Reddy stated that there is as yet no reliable information on the latest developments in Kampuchea. "We hope very much, however, that the people of Kampuchea and also the peoples of other countries of Indochina will be able to go their own way and plan their political and economic development in such a way as to establish trust and cooperation among themselves."

The countries of Indochina have suffered enough and now, like India, want to concentrate on reconstruction. "This could be the firm basis for friendship between their governments, a friendship supported by the representatives of their governments which enjoy the trust and support of their peoples."

The visit has "lent a decisive impetus to the expansion and development of our co-operation. We have signed an important agreement which should open new roads for economic, industrial, and scientific-technological cooperation. Our economies have a potential capable of development which can be placed at the service of both our own countries as well as third countries."

Although India and the GDR have in past years developed fruitful cooperation, "we still have a long road ahead of us. I am confident that our countries will continue to work for a better and happier world."

Two Agreements Signed

HK091509Y Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 9 Jan 79 HK

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic signed in New Delhi on 9 January two agreements for achieving better cooperation in various fields, reports AIR [All-India Radio].

Prime Minister Morarji Desai and visiting President of the German Democratic Republic Eric Honecker signed a joint statement on 9 January at the end of their 2-day talks. The first agreement, signed by Minister for Industry George Fernandes for India and GDR Politbureau Member Doctor Mittag for his country, aims at the development and diversification of economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation on a long-term basis. It envisages that trade between the two countries will at least double by 1985. Both the countries will also promote industrial projects in each other's country and also in third countries.

In the agreement both the countries have pledged to strive for at least doubling the exchange of goods between them by 1985 as against the level attained in 1978. It also provides for expansion, development and promotion of industrial cooperation, taking into account the capacity for their national economy and production potential. The economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation will cover the promotion of industrial projects by providing capital goods and technical services. There is also provision for the deputation of experts and the training of personnel and setting up of training centres.

The second agreement, regarding shipping, was signed by the union minister for shipping, Chand Ram, and Doctor Mittag.

PRESS COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN CAMBODIA

BK091409Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 9 Jan 79 BK

[Text] A number of newspapers have written editorials on the Cambodian situation.

The INDIAN EXPRESS writes: The speed of the drive by the Kampuchean United National Front for National Salvation into Phnom Penh and half a dozen provincial capitals proved that those who ran the world's most ruthlessly radical regime for nearly 4 years in Cambodia lacked the strength to withstand insurgency. The armed forces of the Phnom Penh government seemed to have disintegrated and there was hardly any sign of resistance to what the Pol Pot regime called the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam. The last significant act of the Pol Pot government was the resurrection of the previously discarded figure of Norodom Sihanouk in the hope that he would be able to attract international support to the charge that Vietnam is the aggressor in Cambodia.

The TRIBUNE OF CHANDIGARH is of the view that the fall of Phnom Penh to the pro-Vietnamese forces is an ominous development which is bound to have far-reaching repercussions in Southeast Asia. The paper, however, writes that for its present plight Mr Pol Pot's government has itself to blame. Ever since the end of the war in Vietnam over 3 years ago Cambodia has been engaged in a ruthless drive to eliminate political dissent. Brainwashing apart, Amnesty International has accused Mr Pol Pot's regime of summary and wholesale killings of its political opponents.

The TIMES OF INDIA is of the view that even after the victory of the Vietnamese-supported rebels, it is not going to be smooth sailing after a regime has been established in the Cambodian capital. According to the paper, it will be difficult for Hanoi to install in Phnom Penh a government which others are bound to denounce as puppet. The paper writes: Whatever the (?provocations) that the Pol Pot regime initially offered to Vietnam, the latter's interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia cannot but create gravest misgivings amongst Vietnam's ASEAN neighbors, whom it has of late been trying to woo.

According to the HINDUSTAN TIMES the disappearance of the Pol Pot regime deprives the U.S. and China of a tool in the power game, but also clears the ground to enable them to concentrate more thoughtfully on their main objective, which is to contain Vietnam and, therefore, the Soviet Union's growing influence in the Indochina Peninsula.

Giving its assessment of the situation, the STATESMAN writes: Peking faces a dilemma. Nothing short of a direct and massive intervention can thwart Vietnam's ambitions in Cambodia, and even if Peking were to commit itself to such a course, the outcome would by no means be certain. The rebels in Cambodia cannot be wiped out or permanently neutralized by the Chinese military intervention. If Vietnam itself is threatened, the Soviet Union is likely to invoke the recently concluded friendship treaty with Hanoi to come to its aid, even risking a direct conflict with China. The paper adds that America would not like to intervene after having burnt its fingers in both Vietnam and Cambodia. Even indirect support to any Chinese military move would be embarrassing as it would provoke massive propaganda against the real purpose of closer links between the two countries. The paper further observes: What is more important is that Peking can be the least interested in an uncertain military venture at a time when it is poised for an ambitious drive for economic and technological progress with international cooperation. Hanoi must have taken all this into account while stepping up its military pressure on Phnom Penh.